

France expels more Iranians

PARIS (R) — France has expelled three Iranian nationals employed by the Iranian Islamic Cultural Centre in Paris and is holding five others pending expulsion, an Interior Ministry spokesman said Tuesday. The French government ordered the closure of the centre on Friday and expelled three Iranian diplomats linked to it for "activities incompatible with their diplomatic status." Iran retaliated on Sunday by ordering three French embassy officials to leave the country. Interior ministry officials said the eight Iranians detained on Friday in addition to the three diplomats ordered to leave were youths whose activities at the centre were incompatible with their status as residents in France. Three were put on a plane to Tehran on Saturday and the other five were being held by police pending the next available flight out of Paris, they said.

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Denmark, Holland aid UNRWA

AMMAN (J.T.) — The governments of Denmark and the Netherlands Tuesday announced their contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) for its reconstruction programme in Lebanon which is estimated to cost \$13 million. The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said. Denmark made a contribution of \$613,000 while Holland's donation amounted to \$330,000, bringing the total amount pledged for the programme so far to more than \$5.4 million, the agency added.

Muslims seek to standardise dates of religious rites

ANKARA (R) — Officials from 12 Muslim countries opened talks here Tuesday on ways to standardise observance of religious festivals. Observance of religious holidays, fasts and other occasions in Muslim states around the world is generally based on sightings of the moon, resulting in different countries starting them on different days. The talks are attended by delegates from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Algeria, Tunisia, Qatar, Senegal, Bangladesh, Iraq, Malaysia, Indonesia and Jordan.

Oman replaces 2 ministers

MUSCAT (R) — Sultan Qaboos of Oman has appointed two new ministers in a cabinet change that goes into effect on Jan. 1, according to a royal decree issued here. Selim Abdullah Al Ghazali was appointed minister of commerce and industry to replace Mohammad Zubair who was named special adviser to Sultan Qaboos. Ahmad Suwaidan Al Baluchi was appointed minister of posts, telegraphs and telephones to replace Karim Ahmad Al Harami.

Iran to try 13 more Communists

TEHRAN (R) — Thirteen more alleged members of the military wing of Iran's outlawed Communist Party went on trial Tuesday charged with spying and aiming to overthrow the Islamic republic, the afternoon newspaper Kayhan reported. They were the fifth batch of alleged Communists to appear before the armed forces' revolutionary court. It has already tried 30 people, beginning with former Navy Commander Bahram Afzali on Dec. 6, but no verdicts have yet been announced.

Cannon components stolen in Paris

PARIS (R) — The components for a 30-millimetre rapid-fire cannon were stolen from a freight depot at Charles de Gaulle airport during Thursday night, the defence ministry said Tuesday. The ministry denied press reports that the cannon had been destined for Lebanon. Radio reports later said it had been made in Tulle, central France, for a Spanish purchaser. Informal sources said the theft happened while police and security forces at the airport were engaged in an anti-terrorist exercise.

INSIDE

- Middle East problems forecast in the Bible, page 2
- Finance Ministry to re-examine building and land tax, page 3
- Continuing Gulf war and Iranian trend threaten region's stability and world peace, page 4
- Arab World inflation will come down in '80s, says Jordan Central Bank governor, page 5
- Liverpool enjoys double escape, page 6
- Andropov criticises Soviet industry, page 7
- Namibian rebels launch offensive, Pretoria says, page 8

Arafat, PLO aides discuss future plans

SANA'A (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat Tuesday held talks here with other guerrilla leaders as he planned his next moves in a struggle to stay leader of the Palestinian movement and in the search for settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman, whose meeting last Thursday with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak caused an uproar in the Arab World, has said he plans an early visit to key Arab states including Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

But PLO sources said he was Tuesday morning still at his closely-guarded residence in the North Yemeni capital, Sana'a.

Palestinian sources here said Monday night members of the PLO's military wing had flown in from the organisation's headquarters in Tunis for the strategy talks with Mr. Arafat.

Mr. Arafat arrived in North Yemen Monday in one of the ships which evacuated him with 4,000 loyalist fighters from the north Lebanese port of Tripoli, where he had been under siege for six weeks by Syrian-backed PLO rebels.

He said Monday that he would announce new directions in Palestinian policy after consultations here but the PLO sources said a press conference scheduled for Tuesday may be postponed.

Arafat meets Saleh
Following his arrival in Sana'a, Mr. Arafat met North Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the state-run Sana'a Radio reported.

Mr. Saleh, the second Arab leader after Mr. Mubarak of Egypt to meet Mr. Arafat since he started his journey on Tuesday, was quoted as saying North Yemen supported the struggle of the Palestinian people towards restoring their full rights.

The radio said Mr. Arafat thanked Mr. Saleh for the welcome he and more than 1,000 of his fighters had received on their arrival in North Yemen.

Mr. Arafat has been quoted as saying since leaving Tripoli that he was convinced of the idea of forming a Palestinian government-in-exile.

The PLO rebels have been demanding Mr. Arafat's replacement as head of the commando movement and a return to all-out armed struggle against Israel.

Meanwhile, about 400 PLO fighters evacuated from Lebanon arrived in Baghdad from North Yemen Monday night. PLO officials said in the Iraqi capital.

About 850 loyalist fighters have arrived in Baghdad since the evacuation. The latest batch had travelled with Mr. Arafat to North Yemen.

Iraqi and PLO officials, as well as hundreds of Palestinians carrying pictures of Mr. Arafat and chanting slogans, greeted the fighters at the airport. Some of the slogans were directed against Syria and Libya.

The head of the PLO office in Baghdad, Azzam Al Ahmad, said the fighters' families would join them later.

Iraqi officials have pledged to give the fighters training facilities similar to those of the Iraqi army, he said.

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Israeli policeman killed in Sidon clash

TEL AVIV (R) — One Israeli policeman and possibly three Arab commandos were killed during the night in a clash in the South Lebanese city of Sidon, a military spokesman said.

He said an Israeli patrol spotted a commando squad preparing to plant a roadside bomb and the deaths occurred in the shooting that followed.

One policeman was wounded, he added. He said he did not know if any of the commandos had survived.

The clash occurred in one of the eastern neighbourhoods of Sidon, which has been the site of the almost daily attacks on Israeli occupation forces in South Lebanon.

The policeman's death brought to 561 the number of Israelis killed in Lebanon since the June 1982 invasion, according to official figures. A total of 3,192 Israelis have been wounded, the figures indicate.

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60 killed, 200 injured in 3 days of clashes

Lebanese army, militias fortify positions as fragile truce holds

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese army and Shi'ite Muslim militiamen reinforced their positions in Beirut's southern suburbs Tuesday after three days of intense fighting in which up to 60 people were killed and 200 wounded.

Thousands of people emerged from a third night in shelters in the area around the Shatila refugee camp about eight kilometres south of the city centre to find buildings, roads and cars badly damaged or burnt out.

After some of the heaviest fighting since last year's Israeli invasion, the shelling and shooting died down Monday night as a new ceasefire — the fourth in three days — took effect.

After midday Tuesday right-wing Falangist radio reported shelling of residential and commercial districts of east Beirut.

Millionaire Lebanese businessman Rafiq Al Hariri, chief mediator in the Saudi-backed Sept. 25 ceasefire which ended last summer's "mountain war", arrived from Riyadh with a plan to consolidate a wider ceasefire agreed on Dec. 16.

State-run Beirut Radio said he was carrying the final draft of a scheme to create buffer zones between the Lebanese army and various militias.

Another important provision, they said, was a promise to be extracted from all factions not to shell residential areas should hostilities resume.

President Amin Gemayel discussed the plan Monday night by telephone with Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam.

Reporters who toured the heavily-populated Shatila district Tuesday saw many badly damaged blocks of flats, scores of burnt-out cars and debris littering the streets.

Both the army and the Shi'ite Muslim "Amal" (hope) militia were reinforcing their positions, filling sandbags and bringing in more men.

British soldier hurt, page 2

British soldier hurt, page 2

British soldier hurt, page 2

British soldier hurt, page 2

British soldier hurt, page 2

British soldier hurt, page 2

British soldier hurt, page 2

British soldier hurt, page 2

British soldier hurt, page 2

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OIC ministers to meet before summit

RABAT (R) — Foreign ministers from 41 Islamic countries will hold a preparatory meeting in Rabat before the Islamic summit opens in Casablanca on Jan. 16, a Moroccan Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday. The foreign ministers will discuss the summit's agenda from Jan. 12, he said. Afghanistan, the Iran-Iraq war, the Middle East and Palestinian questions as well as a possible return of Egypt to the Islamic and Arab folds are expected to be main issues at the conference, diplomatic sources said. King Hassan of Morocco has sent special envoys to dozens of Islamic countries to invite heads of state to attend the fourth summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC). Morocco has severed diplomatic relations with some Islamic countries which have recognised the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic proclaimed by Polisario guerrillas in the Western Sahara. Morocco and the Polisario have fought for eight years for control of the former Spanish territory.

Egypt urges U.S. to establish dialogue with PLO chairman

CAIRO (R) — A senior Egyptian official Tuesday urged the United States to start a dialogue with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, saying Mr. Arafat was a voice of reason and moderation.

Presidential foreign affairs adviser Osama Baz was speaking to reporters after a two-hour meeting between President Hosni Mubarak and senior advisers to assess last Thursday's meeting in Cairo between Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"Arafat is a responsible leader of the Palestinian people and has established himself as a voice of reason and moderation within the Palestinian movement. For that reason, we are calling on the U.S. to establish a dialogue... with Chairman Arafat and with Palestinian representatives to advance the cause of peace."

Reactions were delayed by the Christmas holiday but the chairman of the dominant Christian Democratic Party, Flaminio Piccoli, took issue with Mr. Pertini's statements in an interview published Tuesday by the Turin daily La Stampa.

At a year-end meeting with journalists four days ago, the 87-year-old socialist president said there was no longer any reason for Italian soldiers to be in Beirut and charged that the Americans were there "in defence of Israel and not of peace."

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'Israel mistaken'

He said Israel was mistaken in believing that Mr. Arafat's visit to Egypt was an obstacle to peace.

Asked whether there were any prospects at present of a ranking Egyptian official visiting Israel, Mr. Baz said: "You cannot rule out any contacts or visits here and there. This is always possible."

Egypt has repeatedly described its state of relations with Israel as one of "cold peace" since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon last year.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali was the last senior official to visit Israel, in June 1982.

'Too early to comment'

Mr. Baz said it was too early to speak of specific or concrete action on talks between Mr. Arafat and Jordan on the Reagan peace initiative which calls for Palestinian self-rule in association with Jordan.

"But it was definitely clear that the Palestinian movement is open-minded on resuming contacts with Jordan... they believe such a dialogue is indispensable," he said.

Mr. Baz said Tuesday's meeting discussed possible steps to give a new push to Middle East peace efforts.

He said statements made by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, rejecting dialogue with Mr. Arafat, were "negative."

"The door should always be left open for such negotiations and Israel must revise its position in view of the present strong trends among the Palestinian people in support of peace," Mr. Baz declared.

Mr. Piccoli said the Christian Democrats agreed that Italian troops should leave Lebanon as soon as possible but he criticised what he called Mr. Pertini's "personal judgments on our greatest ally," a reference to the United States.

Defence Minister Giovanni Spadolini announced last week that Italy would withdraw some of its 2,200 troops who, with men from the U.S., France and Britain, form a peace force caught up in the worsening violence in Beirut.

Mr. Pertini's views were endorsed by Alfredo Reichlin, a member of the opposition Communist Party secretary, who told La Stampa they were "not only realistic but highly patriotic."

And a prominent socialist, Senator Roberto Cassola, said in a statement that Mr. Pertini was authoritative and wise, "expressing opinions and anxieties widespread in the country."

But the leader of the neo-fascist Italian Social Movement, Giorgio Almirante, said anyone who called for a withdrawal was "on the side of Moscow."

Mr. Pertini, whose post is largely ceremonial, is highly popular with the public, most of whom believe the Italians should leave Lebanon, according to opinion polls.

The presidential palace Tuesday denied rumours that a televised year-end message in which Mr. Pertini had said he would restate his views to Italians had been altered, saying it would be broadcast on Dec. 31 as recorded nine days earlier.

Syria denies minister dead

DAMASCUS (R) — The official Syrian News Agency SANA Tuesday quoted "information sources" as denying reports that Information Minister Ahmad Iskander Ahmad had died in hospital here.

A spokesman at the Harasta hospital told Reuters Monday night that Mr. Iskander, who underwent brain surgery for a tumour in London and has been chronically ill for a long time, had died.

SANA said Tuesday: "Information sources here today denied reports that Mr. Ahmad Iskander Ahmad, the minister of information, had died."

The sources insisted that the minister is at the hospital in the intensive care unit and is in dangerous condition.

Mr. Iskander, one of President Hafez Al Assad's right-hand men, became information minister at the end of 1974.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Farouq Al Share' has been the acting information minister for the last six months.

Mr. Iskander, like Mr. Assad a member of the Alawite sect, of Islam, has been holding the job of information minister longer than anyone else in Syria's modern history.

He was also a member of the regional command of the ruling Baath Party.

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Mr. Mehdi said Syria had offered to release Capt. Goodman if American warplanes ceased "violations of Syrian-held Lebanon."

His remarks, however, conflicted with Syrian official statements which have said that Capt. Goodman will not be freed until all U.S. forces have left Lebanon.

Mr. Mehdi said his delegation was leaving for the U.S. via Amman, where they would spend a few days.

Pope visits assailant in prison

ROME (R) — Pope John Paul, paying a Christmas visit to a Rome jail, Tuesday met Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turkish gunman who shot and wounded him in 1981.

The pontiff and the Turk were left alone as they spoke for 20 minutes in Agca's isolation cell in Rebibbia Prison, a Vatican spokesman told reporters.

The cell door was left open and prison guards and officials and members of the papal retinue could see but not hear the conversation as they waited in the corridor outside, spokesman Pierfranco Pastore said.

The Pope told a reporter as he emerged from the meeting: "I spoke with a brother of ours in whom I have total trust."

Agca is serving a life sentence for his attack on the Pope in Saint Peter's Square on May 13, 1981. He is usually held at a prison in central Italy, but spends periods in Rebibbia to be questioned by magistrates trying to establish whether or not he acted alone.

The Pope publicly forgave Agca in a radio broadcast from his hospital bed four days after the shooting. Agca has expressed repentance for his deed.

The Pope and Agca, who was not bound or handcuffed, sat in two chairs specially arranged for Tuesday's meeting and spoke softly in Italian, Mr. Pastore said.

Both men looked emotional, he said, and described the atmosphere as like a confessional, with no anger or hatred.

As the Pope left, Agca knelt and kissed his hand, Mr. Pastore said. The Pope was driven to Rebibbia by the chauffeur who was at the wheel of the "popemobile" when Agca opened fire, seriously injuring the pontiff in the abdomen.

Pope John Paul was greeted by Italian Justice Minister Mino Martinazzoli. He wished a happy Christmas to a group of people waiting to see detained relatives.

Reagan accepts blame for Beirut security lapse

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan conceded Tuesday that U.S. forces in Lebanon were ill-prepared to deal with bombing attacks and

MIDDLE EAST

'Nothing has changed in the Holy Land'

By David Lennon

TEL AVIV — Theologians are fond of saying that everything is foretold in the Bible. Just so, says Mr. David Goss, who served as Australia's ambassador in Tel Aviv for the past three years. Or, to quote Ecclesiastes: "There is no new thing under the sun."

From the Lebanon war to the state of the Israeli economy, all is foreshadowed.

Mr. Goss noted in a farewell speech lines which describe the original aim of Israel's invasion of Lebanon: "What have we to do with me, O Tyre, and Sidon, and all the coasts of Palestine? ... if ye recompense me, swiftly and speedily will I return your recompense upon your own head." (Eccel 3: 4.)

The effects of that war are recorded in Isaiah 33: 9, "Lebanon is

ashamed and hewn down: Sharon is like a wilderness. But Habakkuk 2: 17 also contains a warning for Israel: "The violence of Lebanon shall cover thee."

Israelis have been divided in their reaction to the war, the Ambassador points out. Some sing the Song of Solomon 4: 8: "Come with me from Lebanon" — but others argue: "Thou shouldst have smitten five or six times: then hadst thou consumed it." (II Kings 13: 19.)

Turning to relations with Damascus, Mr. Goss finds that in II Kings 8 it is noted: "The king of Syria warred against Israel." Syria's policy, according to I Kings 22: 31, is: "Fight with neither great nor small, save only with the king of Israel."

Perhaps because of this, Israeli expectations of the U.S. are for-

etold in II Samuel 10:11: "If the Syrians be too strong for me, then thou shalt help me."

I Kings 20: 22 also reflects the current deliberations in Jerusalem: "Go, strengthen thyself, and mark, and see what thou doest: for at the return of the year the king of Syria will come up against thee."

As for all the peace-makers, such as former U.S. envoy Philip Habib, who have criss-crossed the region in recent years, they would have been well-advised before starting on their journeys to have read Isaiah 33: 7.

The current Arab demands are encapsulated in Judges 11: 13: "Because Israel took away my land... now therefore restore those lands again peaceably." Ambassador Goss notes that later on in this passage it can be seen that the Israeli response is also unchanged 3,000 years later.

The dispute about Jewish settlements on the West Bank is foreshadowed in Isaiah 5: 8, "Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field, till there be no place, that the may be placed alone in the midst of the earth."

An apposite note about the shaky state of the Israeli economy is found, appropriately, in Lamentations 5: 17, "Thou has removed my soul far off from peace: I forgot prosperity."

The constant bickering within and between Israel's many political parties is also nothing new: "And all the people were at strife throughout all the tribes of Israel" (II Samuel 19: 9), and finally, just how powerful is Israeli influence on the U.S.? Mr. Goss found that Job 39: 27, posed the same question: "Doth the eagle mount up at thy command?" — Financial Times.

Kuwait arrests 9 more for wave of bombings

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti authorities have arrested nine more people in connection with a wave of bombings in the small Gulf state earlier this month, including attacks on the United States and French embassies.

Minister of Cabinet Affairs Abdul-Aziz Hussein announced the latest detentions Tuesday and said they would be tried along with 10 people already in custody — seven Iraqis and three Lebanese. He said the latest arrest, of another Iraqi, was made Monday. He

did not give the nationalities of the other eight.

Mr. Hussein told reporters the first 10 arrests were made soon after the Dec. 12 attacks. Kuwaiti authorities have said all 10 were members of the banned Iraqi Al-Dawa Al-Islami (Islamic call) party, said to favour an Iran-type Islamic republic in Iraq.

Mr. Hussein said he expected the trial, by a three-man state security court, to begin in the first week of January.

Kreisky flies to Libya

VIENNA (R) — Former Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, who has often sought to play a mediating role in Middle East politics, has flown to Libya for surprise talks with revolutionary leader Muammar Qadhafi.

Dr. Kreisky, a 72-year-old socialist who governed his country from 1970 until last April, left Salzburg in central Austria Monday aboard a private jet, informed sources said.

Dr. Kreisky told reporters he would use his visit, expected to last at least one day, to exchange views on Middle East issues with Col.

Qadhafi, one of the most radical of Arab leaders.

A non-practising Jew who was the first Western leader to receive Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman Yasser Arafat, Dr. Kreisky has continued to speak out on international affairs since he relinquished office in April.

Before leaving Salzburg, he criticised American and Soviet policies in the Middle East and said: "The superpowers are two great elephants which do not know where they are going."

Iran's women try living with the revolution

TEHRAN (R) — Iran's Islamic revolution has brought a radical change in the status of women and opinions on the result are as varied as those on the revolution itself.

The most obvious change is in female dress. No woman may now appear in public with anything more than her face and hands bare. Breaking the rule may bring anything from a rebuke by a passer-by to arrest and punishment by a patrol of the specially-formed public morals police.

Less obvious is a shift in attitudes towards women's roles.

Revolutionary propaganda stresses the participation of women in demonstrations which led to the overthrow of the shah in 1979.

But, a strong ideological trend has emerged that participation in the Islamic revolution does not mean playing the same role as men in society, and that in an Islamic republic women should stick to the jobs of mother, wife, or nurse.

Champions of the revolution have no qualms about forcing women to observe Islamic standards of veiling, known as hijab.

Atefeh Rajai, widow of murdered President Mohammad Ali Rajai, said in a recent newspaper interview: "I cannot force somebody to believe in God... but you must prevent sins. Women



The euphoria is over must observe hijab even if they do not agree with it."

Mrs. Rajai added: "When a mother wants to prevent an obstinate child from doing something wrong, she has to be violent... the same applies to society at large."

Dress standards are strictly enforced, the minimum being a headscarf, a dull-coloured smock covering the arms and reaching below the knees, and dark stockings hiding the shape of the legs. Bright colours or clothing which reveals the shape of a woman's body are unacceptable.

Many women, especially of the poorer classes, wear the traditional black chador, a tent-like drape which covers the body from head to toe leaving only the face showing.

Upper and middle class women,

who used to dress in Western clothes, often say they are irritated by the restrictions and the way these make some things difficult, like driving a car safely with their heads swathed in scarves.

But others say they are getting used to the new style and have more important things to worry about, such as how to keep a household running in a city where most essential goods are rationed.

For the poorer classes and those in the country, the restrictions seem to be less controversial. Older women in the towns have always worn the chador and in the countryside most traditional costumes measure up to Islamic standards.

Harder for many women to accept has been the attitude that they should either stay at home or take only a restricted range of jobs.

Women play a big part in the Iranian economy, for instance in agriculture, offices, hospitals and schools. They are needed and will therefore continue to work but the more ambitious may feel patronised, and frustrated if the new attitudes mean they are kept in second-rank jobs.

A recent edition of a government magazine for women, Mahjuba (the veiled), summed up the view dominant in some rev-

olutionary circles.

"Women have a lot of pity and kindness in their nature. They must be given duties suitable for them such as training, sanitation, child training, running the house, nursing, teaching, and learning the permissible arts," it declared.

The magazine added: "But there are some duties according to nature which are not suitable for women, such as the ministry of defence, guarding the frontiers, military governmentship, and controlling the country."

Some women complain they have lost their jobs as a result of this viewpoint.

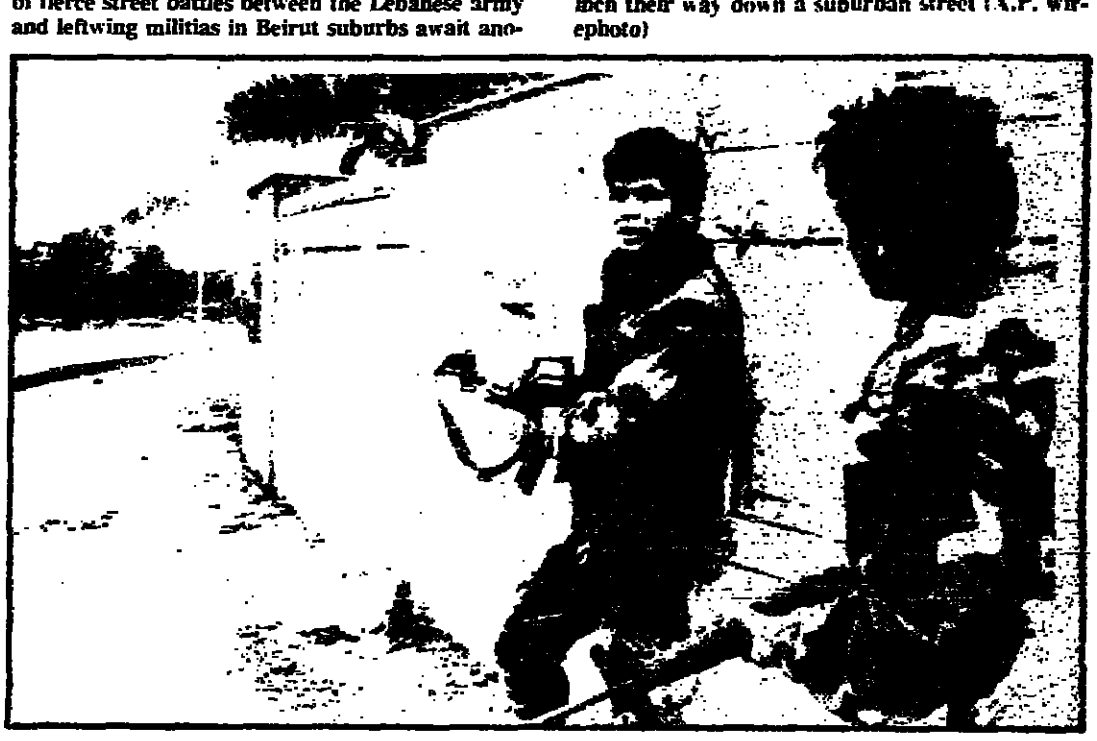
After the revolution, economic difficulties led to job cuts in some departments and these women said it was often the men who kept their posts and the women who are dismissed.

Professional women are nervous about the future. One lawyer said she had recently taken a job with a foreign organisation as a precaution in case she has to stop working in the courts, although there is not yet any indication that this will happen.

Militant Islamic women accept the difference in men's and women's roles laid down by their religion but are adamant that women must be fully active in society.



ENDLESS WAR: (Above) Refugees from three days of fierce street battles between the Lebanese army and leftwing militias in Beirut suburbs await another ceasefire. (Below) Two Lebanese army soldiers march their way down a suburban street (A.P. wirephoto)



1 British soldier hurt in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — A British soldier was hurt by flying debris Tuesday when an explosion occurred in the port area of Beirut as a patrol was passing. A military spokesman said.

The soldier, who was not identified, was cut in the head when the blast of unknown origin, occurred in or near an unoccupied building as two scout cars and another vehicle were passing.

The spokesman said it was unclear whether the explosion, in the heavily damaged port area about two kilometres from central Beirut, had been intended for the British troops or if their presence was coincidental.

The soldier of the Queen's Dragoon Guards, was only slightly hurt.

Troops of the 110-man British contingent, the smallest of the four-nation Multi-National Force, patrol Beirut regularly.

The spokesman said the British troops spent several hours Monday in the cellar of their five-storey headquarters in the southern suburbs because they thought they might be hit by stray shells from heavy battles raging nearby.

4 Israelis caught with drugs at Orly

PARIS (R) — Four Israelis were arrested at the weekend when customs officers at Paris-Orly Airport found five kg of heroin hidden in the false bottom of a suitcase, police said Tuesday.

David Susa, 30, from Rehovot, was detained at the airport on his arrival from Istanbul, police said. The others were arrested later in Paris.

Kabul defends Soviets as world condemns invasion

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghanistan Tuesday called on the non-communist world to agree to Kabul's terms for withdrawing the 105,000 Soviet troops fighting Muslim guerrillas there since Moscow's intervention exactly four years ago.

In a broadcast monitored here, state-run Radio Kabul blamed Western countries, especially the United States, for the failure of United Nations-sponsored talks to find a political solution to the Afghan issue.

"We are prepared to work out a timetable for their withdrawal," the radio said, but added: "The imperialists have not given a suitable reply. This is hampering the situation around Afghanistan."

The broadcast made no mention of the Soviet-backed coup on Dec. 27, 1979, which brought President Babrak Karmal to power and provoked widespread criticism from the West. Islamic countries and the Third World.

The radio said Kabul had made "reasonable and flexible pro-

posals," that included a guarantee that all attacks from Pakistan based guerrilla groups be stopped, at the U.N.-sponsored talks with Pakistan, which broke up last June after three unsuccessful rounds.

Officials in Pakistan, which participated in the talks through a U.N. intermediary, put the blame back on the communists, saying Moscow failed to provide a clear timetable for the Soviet pullout.

They also said Islamabad cannot control the guerrilla groups, which work from Pakistan's lawless tribal areas bordering Afghanistan.

An editorial in the Islamabad daily Muslim Tuesday accused Washington of trying to turn Afghanistan into Moscow's Vietnam and warned Pakistan did not support what it called the policy of "fighting to the last Afghan."

"We are not flattered to be termed a 'frontline state' by Washington and are by no means going to commit the folly of confronting the Soviet Union with the F-16s or other military hardware received from the U.S.," it said.

A foreign office spokesman in Islamabad has categorically rejected "the allegation by the Kabul regime that Pakistani personnel assisted the Mujahideen in their recent action against a post office Afghanistan near Torkham."

The spokesman said: "It was a well known fact that the resistance throughout the length and breadth of Afghanistan was an indigenous freedom struggle being carried on by the heroic Afghan people. The reputation of baseless allegations of Pakistan's involvement was only a device to misrepresent the true nature of this struggle."

Surveying the situation on the fourth anniversary of Moscow's intervention, western diplomats here said the guerrillas had better equipment, tactics and cooperation among rival groups now than last year but were still unable to drive the Soviets out.

In Bonn, several hundred Afghans and sympathisers demonstrated against the four-year Soviet military presence in Afghanistan.

The statement was issued by Greece, current president of the community.

hastian. Their demands for an immediate Soviet withdrawal were backed by leading West German political parties.

Winfried Pinger, development and spokesman of the ruling Christian Democrats, said in a statement that Afghanistan was the acid test of Moscow's desire for detente. The Soviet Union could show over Afghanistan a readiness to renounce force worldwide, he said.

In Athens, the ten members of the European Community have condemned the continued occupation of Afghanistan and called for the withdrawal of Soviet troops.

A statement issued Tuesday by the community presidency said the EC were deeply concerned at the continuing occupation and violation of the independence of traditionally neutral and non-aligned Afghanistan.

The statement was issued by Greece, current president of the community.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

17:30 Koran
17:40 Cartoons
18:00 Cartoons
18:10 News
18:20 Programme Review
18:30 Programme on Agriculture
18:40 News in Arabic
18:50 Arabic Series
19:00 Local Series
19:10 Arabic Series
19:20 News in Arabic
19:30 Arabic Series Continued

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:30 French Programme
18:40 News in Hebrew
18:50 News in Arabic
19:00 Three's Company
19:10 Drama — Strumpet City
19:20 News in English
19:30 Simon and Simon

RADIO JORDAN

555 KHz. AM & 90 MHz. FM & partly on 95.60 KHz. SW

06:30 Morning Show
07:00 News Bulletin
07:30 News Summary
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:00 Pop Session
09:30 News Summary
10:00 News Bulletin
10:30 Instruments
11:00 Animal, Vegetable, Mineral
11:30 Concert Hour
12:00 News Summary
12:30 Old Favourites
13:00 Jordan Weekly
13:30 News Summary
14:00 Over a Cup of Tea, Music
14:30 Classical Notes
15:00 News Bulletin
15:30 Evening Show
16:00 News Summary
16:30 News Summary
17:00 News Summary
17:30 News Summary
18:00 News Headlines

BBC WORLD SERVICE

630, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newsweek 06:30 Waveguide 06:40 Book Choice 07:00 World News 07:20 24 Hours News Summary 07:30 What's New 07:45 The World Today 08:00 Newsweek 08:30 Sir Adrian Boult: A Life of Music 09:00 World News 09:20 24 Hours News Summary 09:30 Kings of Jazz 09:45 Report on Religion 10:00 World News 10:30 Reflections 10:15 Pabst's Choice 10:30 Two Cheers for (1983) 11:00 World News 11:30 British Press Review 11:45 The World Today 12:00 Financial News 12:40 Look Ahead 12:45 Caught in the Act 12:15 Breakthrough 12:30 A Closer Look 12:50 Recording of the Week 13:00 World News 13:30 News about Britain 13:15 Something to Show 13:30 Welcome Yule Part 1 14:00 Radio Newswire 14:15 Nature Notebook 14:20 The Farming World 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:30 24 Hours News Summary 15:50 At Home with... 15:45 Two Hundred Years of Piano Playing 16:15 Report on Religion 16:30 Kenneth Williams' Cabaret 17:00 Radio Newswire 17:15 David Munrow 18:00 World News 18:30 Commentary 18:15 Rock Salad 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:30 Monitor 19:25 New Ideas 19:35 Waveguide 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsweek 20:30 Top Twenty 21:30 Performing Arts 21:40 Stock Market Report 21:45 Vietnamese Night 22:00 World News 22:05 24 Hours News Summary 22:30 Assignment 22:50 Network U.K. 23:15 Short Story 23:30 Jazz for the Asking 24:00 World News 00:00 The World Today 00:25 Book Choice 22:30 Financial News 00:40 Reflections 00:45 Sports Round-up 01:00 World News; Commentary 01:15 Something to Show You 01:30 Top Twenty

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260, SW 7200, 9560, 11740, 17925 & 15210 KHz

06:00 VOA Morning: News on the hour; news summaries; daily business report, science and medicine, sports reports; VOA roundups; analysis, viewpoints, features 17:00 World News; 17:30 Special News and Features 18:00 News 18:30 Focus

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

BALLET

* Ballet theatre Du Silence performs at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

SLIDE LECTURE

* "New Discoveries At Ain Ghazal" by Dr. Gary Rollefson. Yamouk University at the American Centre at 7:00 p.m.

EXHIBITION

* "Orientalist" paintings, at the Allin Art Gallery.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre: Tel. 6610267
American Centre 44371
American Centre library 41520
British Council 36147-N
French Cultural Centre 37009
Goethe Institute 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre 44303
Spanish Cultural Centre 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
Haya Arts Centre 665195
Hussein Youth City 667181
Y.W.C.A. 41793
Y.W.M.C.A. 664251
Amanian Municipal Library 36111
University of Jordan Library 43555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Jordanian artists from most of the Jordanian provinces and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Montazah, Jabal

LUWILDEH. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.

Museum of Military Memorabilia: Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel, 1:30 p.m.
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel, 1:30 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club, Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle, Tel. 815261.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 24590.
Church of the Assumption (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luwildeh, 37440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, 661757.
Jabal Hussein, 661757.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 23541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 41559.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 71331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 75261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 71751.
Armenian International Church (Interdenominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsani, 663249.

PRAYER TIMES

06:00 Fajr
06:37 Sunrise (Shari'at) Shari'at
10:37 Dhuhur
14:21 Asr
16:38 Maghreb
18:06 Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alfa Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. 081 53250, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

07:00 Cairo (EA)
07:15 Karachi (PIA)
07:45 Agaba (RJ)
08:00 Cairo (EA)
08:45 Doha (RJ)
09:45 Cairo (RJ)
10:15 Beirut (RJ)
10:45 Muscat, Bahrain (KAL)
10:55 Cairo (EA)
11:40 Kuwait (KAC)
11:50 Bucharest (Taron)
12:00 Jeddah (Saudi)
12:30 Baghdad (IA)
12:30 Cairo (RJ)
12:30 Bangkok (RJ)
13:00 Rio de Janeiro, Lisbon (EA)
13:15 New York, Vienna (RJ)
13:20 Copenhagen, Athens (RJ)
13:30 Beirut (MEA)
13:30 Cairo (RJ)
13:40 Madrid, Rome (RJ)
13:45 Cairo (EA)
13:50 Cairo (EA)
14:15 Frankfurt, Larnaca (LH)
14:25 Zurich, Athens, Damascus (SA)
08:30 Damascus, Rome (Alitalia)
08:45 Baghdad (RJ)
09:05 Cairo (EA)

DEPARTURES

06:45 Larnaca, Frankfurt (LH)
06:50 Beirut (RJ)
07:00 Agaba (RJ)
08:00 Cairo (EA)
08:30 Athens (OAG)
08:30 Abu Dhabi, Beirut (MEA)
08:55 Damascus, Rome (Alitalia)
11:00 Vienna, New York (RJ)
11:30 Cairo (RJ)
11:55 Amsterdam (KLM)
12:00 London (RJ)
14:20 Cairo (RJ)
15:40 Cairo (EA)
15:40 Kuwait (KAC)
15:50 Larnaca, Bucharest (Taron)
16:30 Baghdad (IA)
16:30 Jeddah (Saudi)

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local sell/buy rates in Jds
Belgian franc 66/ 66.4
Dutch guilder 120/ 120.7
Egyptian pound 32.4/ 32.7
French franc 44.1/ 44.5
Iraqi dinar 375.6/ 384.4
Italian lire (for 100) 22.2/ 22.4
Japanese yen (for 100) 158.9/ 159.9
Kuwaiti dinar 1270/ 1275.1
Lebanese lira 68.3/ 69.3
Omani rial 1073.3/ 1081.6
Qatari riyal 102/ 103
Saudi riyal 106/ 107.1
Swiss franc 169.3/ 170.3
Syrian lira 57/ 58
UAE dirham 101.1/ 102
U.K. sterling pound 531.6/ 534.8
U.S. dollar 372/ 374
W. German mark 134.8/ 135.7

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy, with fog in the early morning. Winds will be westerly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Low high temperature in deg. C

Amman 3/14
Agaba 3/19
Cairo 1/15
Jordan Valley 8/18
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 13, Agaba 18. Humidity readings: Amman 70 per cent, Agaba 56 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Ambulance 193, 75111
Fire, fire police 199
Blind bank 75121
Civil Defence rescue 661111
Fire headquarters 230963
Police rescue 192, 2111, 31777
Police headquarters 39141
Traffic police 56390-1
Electric Power Co. 2631-2
Municipal water service 21125-N
Queen Alia Int. Airport 081 53333

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre 81381-32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amman 44281-4
Abdoh Maternity, J. Amman 42441
Jabal Amman Maternity 43362
Malhas, J. Amman 36140
Palestine, Shamsani 664171-4
Shamsani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 667185
Dar Al-Shifa, J. Hussein 667158
Al-Muasher Hospital 667227-9
The Islamic, Abdali 665292
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164
Italian, Al-Muasher 77101-3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 75111
Army, Marka 91611

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Tayseer Al Sa'di 77636

SPORTS

Liverpool enjoys a double escape

LONDON (R) — Lowly Leicester City made nonsense of the widely-held belief that the only thing you take away from Anfield is the match programme when they held English first division leaders Liverpool to a 2-2 draw Tuesday.

Leicester looked poised to stage the upset of the season when they led 2-0 with goals from Alan Smith and Ian Banks, but, with time running out, Ian Rush and Sammy Lee salvaged a precious point by levelling the scores.

Liverpool, who lost both home and away to Leicester in the 1981-82 season — they went on to win the championship and City plunged into the second division — enjoyed a double escape.

Manchester United, the only possible threat to their hopes of lifting the title for the seventh time in nine seasons, failed to close the gap at the top when they shared the points with Notts County in a six-goal thriller at Old Trafford.

With third-placed Luton losing 1-0 at home to West Ham, the top

of the table remained virtually unchanged with Liverpool on 41 points, followed by Manchester United (38), Southampton (37), West Ham (36) and Luton (35). Leicester, who have lost only two of their last 13 games, stunned the famous 'Kop' terrace choir into silence in the seventh minute when Smith ended a goalmouth melee with a crisp shot past Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobelaar.

That is usually the cue for Liverpool to take destructive revenge, but Leicester — either through bravery or naivety — inflicted further embarrassment when Banks added a second midway through the second half.

Like a lion awakening with a hangover, Liverpool were not in

the best of humour and they promptly tore off in search of blood. Lee pulled one back in the 73rd minute and Rush made it 2-2 seven minutes from time with his 21st goal of the season.

That set the scene for an astonishing finish in which Leicester goalkeeper Mark Wallington performed above and beyond the call of duty.

He pulled off one amazing save from Liverpool captain Graeme Souness then topped that effort when he brilliantly saved a last minute penalty from the same player.

Charlie Nicholas, who scored twice in Arsenal's 4-2 win at Tottenham on Monday, crowned his return to form when he scored his first goal at Highbury since his £750,000 (\$1.12m) transfer from Glasgow Celtic in the summer.

Nicholas ended 1,157 barren minutes in the 13th minute of his 13th home game when he netted a penalty to give Arsenal a 1-1 draw against Birmingham.

Hearns wants second try against Sugar Ray Leonard

NEW YORK (R) — World Boxing Council (WBC) super welterweight champion Thomas Hearns said Tuesday he has recovered from a right-hand injury and is anxious for another fight against Sugar Ray Leonard, the only man ever to beat him.

Hearns, attending a press conference to promote his first title defence against Luigi Minichillo of Italy, had Leonard uppermost in his mind.

"I want Leonard," he said of the former undisputed welterweight champion who recently announced his return to the ring. "That fight would be worth \$20 million each."

But first, Hearns will have to get past 28-year-old Minichillo, the former European junior middleweight champion, who boasts a record of 42-2.

The venue of the January 27 bout has not been announced but promoters said a deal is close to stage the fight in Las Vegas.

Hearns will also have to prove he is ready to use his once-vaunted right hand. In capturing the title a year ago with a points decision over Puerto Rican Wilfredo Benitez, Hearns fought the final rounds with two dislocated bones in his hand.

But the 25-year-old champion, who has won 37 fights against the one defeat, said his right hand felt fine and ultra-sound treatment and exercises after the cast came off had left him with no health worries.

Hearns said he did not know what to expect from Minichillo in their 12-rounder but that was no worry either.

"I don't know anything about Minichillo at all," he said. "That's best for me. If I prepared for him a certain way and he came out a different way I could be in trouble."

Hearns, of course, is well familiar with Leonard.

"I want to fight Leonard because I came so close," Hearns said, referring to their 1981 bout for the welterweight title. "I never should have lost that fight." Leonard retained his crown when the referee halted the contest in the 14th round.

Asked if he has improved as a fighter since then, Hearns replied: "I am a much smarter thinker, a much wiser man."

Earlier this month, Leonard announced an end to a 13-month retirement forced by surgery to correct a partly detached retina in his left eye.

France hails Platini as new national hero

PARIS (R) — Michel Platini was acclaimed a national hero in France Tuesday after being voted European Footballer of the Year.

Platini, 28, who joined Juventus last year, won the coveted 'Golden Ball' award organised by France-Football magazine in a landslide victory to become the first Frenchman to win the trophy since the legendary Raymond Kopa of Real Madrid in 1958.

The poll gave Platini 110, well ahead of second-placed Kenny Dalglish of Liverpool and Scotland with 26.

"I really didn't think I had a chance of winning. It's an emotion totally different from winning a match," he said.

The Juventus midfielder, who takes over from Italy's 1982

World Cup hero Paolo Rossi — now a Juventus team-mate — as Europe's number one footballer, joins a roll of honour dating back to 1956 when Alfredo di Stefano and Stanley Matthews shared the award.

Allan Simonsen, winner in 1977 but now playing for an unfashionable club in his native Denmark, took third place ahead of another Scot, Aberdeen's Gordon Strachan.

Juventus President Gianpiero Boniperti said of Platini's award: "I've always said Platini can't be compared with any other player."

"In my opinion, and I speak with some authority, he's as great as that unforgettable Uruguayan master of my own playing era, Juan Schiaffino."

Zico wins battle for 15 per cent of transfer fee

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazilian soccer star Zico has won his battle for 15 per cent of the \$4m Italian club Udinese paid Flamengo for his transfer.

Flamengo's lawyers argued Zico was not entitled to the payment, the usual player's percentage in Brazil, as the rules did not apply to international transfers. They also said Zico had stated he was not interested in the money.

Zico denied making that statement and a Rio Sports Federation tribunal has decided he should receive the \$600,000.

Before leaving for Italy, Zico said he wanted to end his playing career in Rio and added: "When I come back I'm prepared to play for Flamengo for nothing — I just want to finish my career in a red and black shirt."

McNamee, Edmondson give Australia lead over Sweden

MELBOURNE (R) — Paul McNamee, in what he called "the best match I ever played" and Mark Edmondson overpowered the Swedish pair of Anders Jarryd and Hans Simonsson to give Australia a 2-1 lead in the Davis Cup final with a 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 victory in the doubles at Kooyong on Tuesday.

The triumph put Australia within one victory of winning the Davis Cup for the first time since 1977 and they will be favoured to do so in the first of the reverse singles on Wednesday when Pat Cash faces Joakim Nyström.

John Fitzgerald, who beat Nyström Monday, and Mats Wilander, Cash's conqueror on the first day, will meet in the final match of the tie.

Swedish captain Hans Olsson admitted his confidence was slipping away, but believed Sweden still have a good chance.

"Every match we lose is not good for the confidence but there are still two matches more and we are going to fight."

"We hope to win this," he said. "We have not yet lost it."

Australian captain Neale Fraser would not be drawn on which of the two final singles he thought might be easier to win.

"The next match we play is always the toughest. We will just worry about that one first," he said.

Fraser said his doubles pair had not played particularly well when they won the Australian Open title two weeks ago, but Tuesday had been their best display in Davis Cup.

McNamee, 29, was the star of the Australian show Tuesday as he bounced around the court buying winning smashes and volleys with a performance which he said was the pinnacle of his career.

"That for me was the match of my life," said McNamee, who won the Wimbledon doubles title playing with Peter McNamara in 1980 and 1982.

"This was the best match I ever played, and the reason I could do that was because of Mark's great support. The way he returned, he gave me the chance to play the best of my life."

Edmondson, 'Eddo' to his teammates, provided rocklike support throughout and his powerful first serve was a constant problem for the Swedish pair.

Simonsson had trouble handling Edmondson's first serve all day while Jarryd was plagued by unforced volleying errors.

Jarryd, replaced by Nyström in Sweden's singles lineup for the tie, double-faulted in the third game of the opening set to give Australia the critical break, and games went with serve until McNamee clinched the set in the 10th game.

The second set was similar, and again it was Jarryd's serve which was broken when a hyped-up McNamee blasted a return which skipped past the Swede's racket.

The Australians immediately tightened their grip during the third set. Simonsson lost his serve in the fifth game and Jarryd surrendered his in the seventh as the Australians took a surprisingly easy win in just over an hour and a half.

McNamee and Edmondson extended their flawless doubles record in the Davis Cup, having won all four encounters. Simonsson and Jarryd now have a 6-2 winning record in cup ties, and McNamee said he had lost to the Swedes three times in a row previously.

"Now you tell me," Fraser quipped later.

McNamee said he and Edmondson were both tremendously disappointed at not being picked for the singles berths after playing so well in practice last week.

"That is a natural reaction. But the whole point is that in this ultimate test it is a team game and the team is picked according to its merits. The decision of the team by the captain is in its best interest."

"You have to respect them totally. You have to stand up to that responsibility. You need a little time to get over the disappointment. You take that time and you get over it in your own way and then you come out firing and that is what we did today."

Simonsson said McNamee and Edmondson had simply been too good on the day. "They played very well here in the Australian open too and we knew that they were a very good team."

"We had to really play our best to beat them, which we didn't do. We had some chances maybe in the second set to get ahead of them."

"On the third set there is nothing to say — we played badly and they played very well."

Olsson denied suggestions the Swedish players had been overconfident about the tie after winning Australia's two major grass court championships. Wilander the Australian Open two weeks ago and Nyström the New South Wales Open last week — during which he beat Cash.

On the vital Nyström-Cash encounter on Wednesday, Olsson said: "I know he can beat Cash again, but it will be very difficult."

Nyström, who lost to Fitzgerald 6-4, 6-2, 4-6, 6-4 Monday, will be under enormous pressure to keep Swedish hopes alive in the first match on Wednesday.

If he comes through, Sweden would be favoured to take the tie through Wilander, who gave Sweden a 1-0 lead Monday with his 6-3, 4-6, 4-7, 6-3 victory over Cash.

But that would be to underestimate Fitzgerald's tremendous will to win in Davis Cup singles, in which he has a perfect 5-0 record.

His triumph over world number four Yannick Noah carried Australia past France in the semi-finals. He could do the same against Wilander on Wednesday.

Crowd trouble mars Windies day

MADRAS, India (R) — Fast bowler Winston Davis was slightly injured by a stone thrown from the crowd on an otherwise successful day for the West Indies in the rain-hit sixth cricket test against India Tuesday.

At close of play on the third day, India, replying to the West Indians' total of 313, were 69 for four and still 81 runs short of avoiding the follow-on.

The stone-throwing incident happened 25 minutes after tea when Sunil Gavaskar drove Roger Harper to the extra-cover boundary. As Davis retrieved the ball, the missile hit him on the collar bone and opened up a cut.

Skipper Clive Lloyd led his

team off the field for half an hour but agreed to continue after being assured that police vigilance in the popular stands would be increased.

The stoppage proved to be a disadvantage to India, already 3-1 down in the series.

Immediately after the resumption, Navjot Singh, who had batted 114 minutes for his 20 runs, was caught by Viv Richards off the bowling of Malcolm Marshall.

Gavaskar, who had contributed 32 runs to his 54-partnership with Navjot, then became bogged down and could score only four runs in the 35 minutes following the stoppage.

The pair came together after

India had lost two wickets without a run on the board.

Marshall did the early damage with successive balls in his second over, claiming the wickets of Anshuman Gaekwad and Dilip Vengsarkar who both fell to brilliant catches by Roger Harper at third slip.

Off-spinner Harper later took his maiden test wicket when he had Ashok Malhotra caught at short-leg with India on 67.

Earlier, the West Indies, resuming at 207 for five, lost two early wickets to Roger Bunty before Marshall and paceman Michael Holding staged an eighth-wicket partnership of 71.

Holding hit one four and three sixes in two overs against off-spinner Shival Yadav and also swept a six off Maninder Singh.

Maninder and Kapil Dev finished the innings with three wickets apiece, the skipper's haul making him the highest Indian wicket-taker in a series against the West Indies.

Kapil Dev has now taken 29 wickets, two more than the previous record shared by Subash Gupte and Karsan Ghavri.

Dope tests ordered for record breakers

SYDNEY (R) — Athletes who set world records will be required to take a drug test in future, a sports chief said.

"If they refuse, the record will not stand," Dr. Primo Nebiolo, President of the International Athletic Federation, added.

He told reporters the IAAF council agreed at a meeting in Manila to introduce a ruling requiring all record-setting athletes to submit to a dope test.

"The Federation has always taken a serious view on the use of drugs among athletes and will continue to do so," he said, adding: "And while we don't want to become a police federation, we do intend to enforce the ruling."



AQABA HOUSE

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WSC to carry out several rural projects in 1984

AMMAN (Petra) — The Water Supply Corporation (WSC) will carry out several water projects in the coming year, 1984, especially in the rural regions of the country, according to WSC Director Yassin Al Kayed.

He said that 1984 will witness the completion of the Aqaba sewerage project and the start of the operation of the Jerash sewerage station.

"Early in the coming year we are expecting specialists in Amman to help us operate the station but at present the WSC is busy linking the main sewerage network with homes in Jerash," Mr. Kayed said. "Two foreign companies will be awarded a tender to start implementing the Irbid sewerage project early in 1984."

Mr. Kayed was speaking here following a visit he made to the United States where he inspected water and sewerage projects and discussed the implementation of projects in Jordan with the U.S. officials.

Mr. Kayed visited the states of Virginia, Maryland and California in the course of a programme of cooperation between the U.S. and Jordan in implementation of a 1982 bilateral agreement. His talks with U.S. officials and specialists covered the prospect of dispatching Jordanian engineers and technicians to the U.S. for further training on purification of drinking water, wastewater treatment and ways of dealing with pollution of water sources.

At present the WSC is preparing the necessary documents for implementing the sewerage project for Zarqa and Ruseifa, he said.

Also the WSC is preparing a study in co-operation with the World Bank and the National Planning Council on carrying out water and sewerage projects in Karak, Madaba, Tafila, Ma'an, Mafraq, Rumtha, Ajloun, Anjara, Ain Jara and Kufuneh, Mr. Kayed added.

Customs Directorate announces new exemptions for Jordanians, foreigners

AMMAN (Petra) — The Customs Directorate, in compliance with the new Customs Law, has issued new directives exempting from duty the personal luggage and furniture for Jordanians living abroad and for foreigners intending to live in Jordan.

Customs Director-General Adel Qudhah said those who would benefit from exemption under the new provision are those who have concluded their employment contracts abroad and are returning to Jordan with their families for permanent residence.

Families of Jordanians who will continue working abroad and desire to have their families to stay permanently in Jordan have to

submit documents that prove such an intention, according to the provisions of the new directives.

Documents supporting transfer of applicant's children to Jordanian schools, contracts for a rented house, documents signifying ownership of a vacant house or a signed contract for taking up a job in Jordan, would be satisfactory for exemption purposes. All documents should be officially ratified.

To benefit from the new regulation, the family should not, as a whole or through one of its members, have profited from a similar exemption in the past.

The duration for the luggage and house furniture to be brought into the country should not exceed

four months after the arrival of its owners, unless extraordinary circumstances, proved by documents, hinder the fulfilment of this condition.

The new regulation does not cover air-conditioners, refrigerators, gas and electric cookers, television sets, recorders, video cassette recorders, carpets, dish-washers, electric vacuum cleaners, office machinery, more than one washing machine, electric fan, gas heater, iron and radio set.

Mr. Qudhah said the new regulations have become effective on Dec. 20, and added that Jordanian embassies have been notified with the new measures.



The rock band, Suede, (from left to right) Nasser, Sharaf, Ali Eid and Fares Sharaf, during a practice session (file photo).

Rock group to give charity concert

By Lami K. Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A concert for the benefit of the Social Security Fund will be held Thursday by the Jordanian rock group, Suede, the proceeds of which will go to Jordanian needy families.

The Social Security Fund is a voluntary organisation founded in the beginning of 1983 to help destitute families, either through rehabilitation of individuals or through direct financial aid.

The Suede concert is the first fund-raising event for the organisation.

Mrs. Zein Eshbeilat, the secretary-general of the Social Security Fund, explained to the Jordan Times the objectives of the organisation. She said that the organisation aims to offer opportunities to poor families for building a better future through the rehabilitation of individuals who are able to engage in different kinds of work.

"The organisation will sponsor the training of needy individuals in a certain craft, thus enabling them

to have a new start in life that might better their living standards and save them from poverty," she said.

In cases where families are destitute, who need urgent help or with no individuals that are able to work, the Social Security Fund is ready to provide an outright financial aid, Mrs. Eshbeilat added.

The Social Security Fund will sponsor "an adoption programme" by which affluent individuals can "adopt" needy families and help them through the organisation.

"Through the adoption programme affluent individuals can undertake themselves to help the needy families or individuals. An affluent person can give JD 250 annually to a destitute family through the organisation. The amount will be given to the adopted family on a monthly basis," Mrs. Eshbeilat said.

The Social Security Fund, she pointed out, is also ready to give a considerable amount at one time to an individual or a family who needs to start a small business to provide it with a stable source of

income.

Mrs. Eshbeilat expressed hope that the concert will be able to raise JD 3,000, with which the organisation will launch this programme to help poor Jordanians.

Equally enthusiastic, for achieving the objectives of the party, are the three young members of the band.

"Suede has always taken part in charity fund raising concerts that turned out a success," Nasser Sharaf, a 17-year-old student who plays the guitar, said. He is very optimistic because the Suede's last concert drew an audience of three thousand.

For Nasser and the rest of the musicians, the coming concert will be "very special" because it will be "their first solo act."

Nasser, who composes the music and writes the lyrics for the songs, expressed surprise at the response by youth in Amman to the Suede's music.

The concert will take place on Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Palace of Culture at the Hussein Sports City. Tickets will be available at the door.

Ministry to re-examine building and land tax law

AMMAN (J.T.) — Finance Minister Salem Masa'deh has set up a special committee to re-examine the buildings and lands tax law, with a view to introducing an amendment aimed at reducing the taxes on buildings and lands.

The committee has been entrusted with studying other laws pertaining to the buildings and lands law so that a unified tax law on buildings can be enacted, according to a Finance Ministry spokesman.

He said that the committee held its first meeting Monday under the chairmanship of Mr. Masa'deh and will complete its work by Wednesday.

The subject of taxes on buildings and lands was raised at Monday's session of the National Consultative Council (NCC) when Prime Minister Mudar Badran reiterated a previous government statement that there will

be no increases in taxes whatsoever.

The Finance Ministry committee, Mr. Badran said, will work out unified basis for assessment of buildings on which tax is to be imposed. "It is true that we have 25 committees who are more or less tax assessors and who suggest certain amounts to be imposed as tax on buildings, but different teams give different assessments."

"In order to arrive at an equitable solution and to be fair we have set up this committee to try to lay down unified basis for assessing taxes," the prime minister added.

The new amendment is not for adding taxes on buildings but to reach an equitable and unified code for assessment, he stressed.

At present the tax imposed on buildings is 17 per cent of the rent or the would be rent, but in effect the government is collecting only seven per cent and therefore the new amendment will definitely include provisions for reducing the tax below 17 per cent, the prime minister said.

Mr. Badran was commenting on a statement by NCC members Khalil Al Salem and J. Al-Saleh, who supported the government's views in drawing new principles and codes for assessing taxes on buildings with a view to achieving justice.

The Finance Ministry's committee, Dr. Salem said, had earlier suggested to the government not to impose new taxes but to achieve a balance in taxes and arrive at an equitable formula for Salem said.

'Obeidat opens new first aid centre

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Interior Ahmad 'Obeidat

opened a new first aid centre in the town of Al Jiza.

Mr. 'Obeidat was briefed by the director of first aid and emergency at the department on the services which the centre provides to the public and got acquainted with its

various sections.

The minister later opened Al Jiza Camp which includes stores and workshops for civil defence and was briefed on the tasks and duties of the camp and the modern machinery used in it.

At the end of the tour, Mr. 'Obeidat met with the Director of Civil Defence Department, Maj-Gen. Khalid Al Farwani,

to discuss as well as other high ranking officers of the department.

Mr. 'Obeidat expressed his admiration of the high level which the department, and its various emergency centres, all over the country has reached and of the services it provides to the public. He was accompanied during his tour by Maj-Gen. Farwani and high ranking civil defence officers.

Chinese medical team ends visit to Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — A Chinese Medical team left Amman Tuesday concluding a seven-day visit to Jordan during which they met Minister of Health Zuhair Malhas and held talks with ministry's senior officials on ways for boosting co-operation between Jordan and the People's Republic of China.

and exchange of expertise in the medical field.

Members of the delegation lectured Jordanian doctors on acupuncture and operations for transplanting amputated limbs.

They also visited a number of touristic and historical places in Jordan.

Public Security signs agreement for building more housing units

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Directorate Tuesday signed an agreement on civil works for the second phase of the Public Security Officer's housing estate at Tabarbour.

The first phase provides for building 48 flats which are currently under construction, Public Security Assistant Director Mohammad Ali Al Amin said.

Passport Department gets 15 new printing machines

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian Passport Department has started applying a computerised printing system for printing newly-issued passports in both Arabic and English.

Passport Department Director Mohammad Al Qudhah said the department is now operating 15 modern machines for printing passports and added that this advanced service would be expanded to include passport departments all over the country as well as Jordanian embassies abroad.

With the new system, forgery has become almost impossible, Mr. Qudhah said, and the new equipment, costing JD 120,000-130,000 per apparatus, are capable of producing 240 passports daily.

Drug addiction, a contemporary problem in Jordan

By Rabab Mango and
Fida Nasrallah
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Drug addiction is a world-wide problem, but in Jordan the situation has not assumed alarming proportions as the Public Security Department is keeping things under its control. But according to the department's head of the anti-narcotics unit, Hani Al-Qudhah, there are more than 1,000 addicts in Jordan at the moment and the problem is causing concern to the authorities because every year more and more Jordanians are taking up the habit.

He said that Jordan occupies a central position in the Middle East and as a result, attracted smugglers and drug traffickers. Thus the problem of drugs which the country was free from in the past, could well affect our society in view of its rapid development, ease of travel and the large flow of trade and money.

Drug addicts do not live a long life, and this is an established fact, he said. In order to get drugs, the addicts usually resort to robbery, embezzlement, fraud, murder and dozens of other different ways to secure a steady income to finance their habit, according to Lt.-Col. Qudhah.

The addict, he said, can easily be transformed into a person who does not own any thing and one who can easily abandon his family, give up his job, principles and eventually create further problems for society. Drug addicts are never satisfied and the effect of the drugs can be to rob a person of his identity, will-power and character, he said.

General situation

To find out about the drug situation in Jordan and the effects of drug addicts on society we put some questions to Lt.-Col. Qudhah.

He began by saying that in the 1920s and '30s Jordan was completely free of drugs. Isolated cases appeared from time to time, but they all proved to be amongst non-Jordanian nationals. In the past, social traditions and customs probably constituted a deterrent and the society's patterns of behaviour prevented the addiction phenomena from spreading, he said. But he continued, with the recent developments in Jordan, particularly after the 1960s, the drug trafficking business which had previously been confined to smugglers and was limited among ordinary people, began to spread among people in all walks of life.

Jordan, being open to trade due to its central geographical position in the region, witnessed drug smuggling from Turkey, Lebanon and Syria bound for Egypt — the major drug consumer country in the region.

However, some of the drugs that are brought into Jordan stay here, and there are cafes and bars in Amman frequented by addicts of all ages, he pointed out.

Drug addiction has spread among both traders and youths, he said, especially students who have been educated or travelled to foreign nations and have acquired their habits.

It is not a secret, Lt.-Col. Qudhah

said, to reveal that a number of Jordanian women have also been found to be drug addicts.

A study on the drug situation in Jordan was carried out towards the end of the 1970s. It revealed that a sample of 10 to 12 cafes in Amman were frequented by around 50 to 60 addicts, according to the owners of these places who were interviewed in the course of the study.

Between 1973 and 1983 the Public Security Department seized various amounts of drugs including hashish, opium and cocaine.

Determined to eradicate drug addiction in Jordan, a number of regulations have been introduced and laws enacted, including one that refers addicts to the military court with the prospect of facing prison sentence of between 10 years and life.

Giving up addiction

Asked about cases in which drug addicts tried to give up the habit, Lt.-Col. Qudhah said that we have tried to help, but that the addict faces very serious illness and possible death if denied doses of, in particular, heroin. Twelve hours after abstaining from taking the drug an addict will display horrible mental and physical symptoms in which they are beyond control.

An addict who goes through this experience can expect severe sweating, impaired vision and will be subject to contractions of the organs accompanied by acute diarrhoea, stomach-ache, pain in var-

ious parts of the body and possibly death.

Why take up the habit?

Lt.-Col. Qudhah said that people take up the drugs habit for different reasons. These include:

- a desire to belong to a new set of people;
- the attraction of a dangerous adventure;
- the need to overcome a mental or nervous disorder;
- to help to get rid of anxiety, mental or physical stress or fear.

However, according to a statistical survey conducted in 1979, drug addiction in Jordan was found to be mainly due to social, health and economic difficulties and problems.

Those interviewed were addicts, people involved in combating the habit or those campaigning for legislation to counter addiction. The survey revealed that in 1979 there were 1,079 addicts distributed as follows:

- Amman: 406; Salt and suburbs: 50; Zarqa and neighbouring refugee camps: 350; Aqaba: 58; Karak: 5; Madaba: 10.

As to their ages, the addicts were found to be as follows: Six per cent were under 20, 32 per cent between 21 and 30, 42 per cent between 31 and 40 and 20 per cent above 41.

Of these, 70 per cent were found to be married, 25 per cent were single and only five per cent were widowed or divorced.

The survey also indicated that 31 per cent of the addicts were illiterate, 22 per cent had elementary education, 19 per cent

completed compulsory education, 17 per cent finished their secondary studies and 11 per cent had a university education.

In accordance with the same survey, 27 per cent of the addicts were found to be car drivers, 26 per cent people conducted private business, eight per cent private sector employees, eight per cent merchants, eight per cent cafe or bar workers or waiters, eight per cent were unemployed for most of the time, five per cent were labourers, four per cent street vendors, two per cent hairdressers, two per cent dressmakers, one per cent farmers and one per cent physicians.

Between 1979 and 1983 new factors have affected the level and causes of drug addiction in Jordan. More and more educated people are taking up the habit.

Among the reasons behind this upturn in the drug addiction trend in Jordan are the high standard of living among certain classes of people, the availability to young people of cash in considerable amounts who frequent night clubs and cafes, and access to tablets and sedatives from local drug stores and pharmacies.

The best means of curbing drug addiction is to spread awareness among the younger generation as to the dangers of drugs. This can best be done through school textbooks and the use of the various means at the disposal of the information media.

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Key is self-determination

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's visit to Cairo last week apparently has cost him some political standing, especially with his erstwhile friends in the Palestinian camp. How he plans to offset this loss, nobody is sure. But what are the possibilities there, and how does the PLO leader intend to play his fewer cards from now on?

First, let us assume that Arafat's decision, in going to Egypt to open a new dialogue with President Mubarak and his government, is irrevocable. This is a safe assumption since to go back on his bold step now surely means the collapse of his "independent" decision-making machine and consequently the bankruptcy of his policies for the post-Tripoli era — let alone the likely loss of face and stature in the Palestinian resistance movement that might ensue if he were to dismiss the Egyptian visit as just a passing whim.

If our assumption is correct, then reports received here from Sana'a, yesterday that the PLO chairman is in the process of charting brand new policies for his organisations also have to be true. What these policies will be, we will have to wait and see. But what is evident is that Arafat will again choose a middle course between the two extremes in the Middle East.

The PLO leader will definitely not jump on the Reagan plan peace wagon, for such a move is certain to further undermine his credibility among the Palestinians. He will be willing, however, to build a bridge to the U.S. proposals on the Middle East in some form or another — a compromise that is safe enough to pursue, we think, if there is evidence the United States decides to accept it as well.

It seems that something like the envisaged Egyptian-French initiative to solve the Palestinian problem is the most sound basis upon which Arafat might want to act. Short of that, U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 or 338, amended to include the right of Palestinians to self-determination, may also be acceptable to the majority of Palestinians.

In any case, for Arafat to recoup the loss that he incurred in breaking ranks with fellow Palestinians over the Cairo visit, he most probably needs political gains somewhere else. This could be most easily and promptly done if, and only if, Egypt, the U.S. and the rest of the moderates moved swiftly to his side, and not the other way round. The key to any Middle East settlement remains that, and will always be, the granting to the Palestinians of the right to self-determination.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Removing the Israeli barrier

JORDAN HAS always adopted a policy of strengthening its ties with Egypt and has been advocating this policy in the Arab World. This policy stems from its conviction that any positive step towards Egypt can lead to the removal, by degrees, of the barrier that Israel had created between the Arab states and Egypt and the ending of that country's isolation. Any constructive step towards Egypt can lead to the re-building of bridges of brotherly ties and cooperation in the best interests of the Arab nation.

In his address to the National Consultative Council Monday Prime Minister Mudar stressed this fact again and stressed the importance of not leaving any Arab state to be under Israel's mercy or confronting the Zionist state all on its own. It is true that the Arab nation must not allow one state to conclude a separate peace treaty with Israel as Egypt did but it is not true that any constructive move towards Egypt should be interpreted as a step representing capitulation to the enemy. When Sadat visited Israel he did that on his own initiative and without consulting with his own people. Now Sadat is gone and so are his policies, and what is left now is the Egyptian people whom we know very well and whom we should deal directly and objectively.

Al Dustour: Considering Arab interests

JORDAN'S TIES with Egypt are based on the concept of the need to mobilise all Arab resources and potentials for serving the higher Arab interests. Jordan, as Prime Minister Mudar Badran said Monday, believes that Egypt should not be left as a prey to the Zionists and should not be left out in the dark. Egypt should feel that its sister Arab states are supporting it and had not abandoned it, despite the Camp David agreement which temporarily caused the ostracisation of Egypt and the Egyptian people from the rest of the Arab World.

The higher Arab interests should always be placed above all other considerations, and above individual interests. This fact was emphasised by the prime minister in his address to the National Consultative Council Monday. He said that Egypt should not be left alone to face the Zionists' pressures and hegemony, the absence of Egypt from the Arab arena had no doubt weakened the Arabs and caused great damage to their credibility and their ability to confront the dangers and challenges.

In the light of this we should view Arafat's visit to Cairo last Thursday as a constructive step that could lead to a better understanding of the Egyptian position and a further strengthening of the Arab ranks.

Sawt Al Shaab: Bolstering the Arab ranks

THE SIGNING of the Camp David agreements by the Israeli and Egyptian governments can by no means change the fact that Egypt is an Arab country, and its people are Arabs. Egypt manifested this fact on several occasions specially during Israel's invasion of Lebanon and in its support for the Palestinians and their rights regionally and internationally. It is, therefore, natural for Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat to go to Cairo to pay tribute to its new leaders' endeavours and their drive to regain the rights of the Palestinians in their homeland.

Jordan for its part, has always believed that negative dealings with Egypt can only lead to its further isolation and would result in driving it more and more towards Israel. Jordan believes that Egypt, as an Arab state, should be strengthened, for its strength can be of support to the Arab Nation who can take pride in. Jordan also believes that being a confrontation state and in view of its demographic and geographic situation, should try to bolster Arab ranks in confrontation with the Israeli enemy. Everything possible should be done to achieve this and everything should be done to bolster Arab solidarity.

MIDDLE EAST HORIZON

Reagan sees East-West contest everywhere

PRESIDENT RONALD Reagan's tendency to perceive the whole world in terms of East and West, with various nation's internal conflicts looming as potential threats to an eventual larger contest of wills or military might between the United States and the Soviet Union is slowly but surely entrenching the U.S. firmly in the middle of Lebanon's mad-dening civil war. Unfortunately this comes as no surprise to anyone who has observed the Reagan administration's constantly changing foreign policy, particularly concerning the Middle East.

In 1982 the administration strongly condemned Israel's invasion of Lebanon and eight months later, insisted any sort of stability in Lebanon could not be accomplished without withdrawal of all foreign forces. Yet in a sharp reversal of that argument, these days the administration says the Marines may stay as long as 16 months from now, under a Congressional directive in October authorising the extension.

In a report (prepared by Secretary of State George Shultz and Secretary of Defence Cas-

par Weinberger) presented earlier this month to Congress, Mr. Reagan asserted that "the international credibility of the United States and its partners" was at stake in Lebanon. But one Western observer says force that ends up killing more Arabs, even in self-defence, will not enhance America's influence in Middle East politics. Even in the U.S., it would eventually be viewed as just another occupying force helping Israel do its "dirty work" — a stigma darkening its image the United States can no longer overlook, in a region where shielding a Christian Maronite regime from "Muslim and Druze" militia has become so dangerous that Multinational Forces (MNF) are not immune from fire, becoming in effect one more warring faction.

At a Washington news conference two weeks ago, President Reagan said the U.S. would not withdraw its forces from Beirut until the government of Lebanon took control of its territory or there was "such a collapse of order" that no peaceful resolution of the Lebanese conflict was possible. U.S. National Security Affairs Adviser Robert McFarlane

said two days later that U.S. and other multinational troops could be withdrawn within six months, if the Lebanese army could demonstrate that it could establish a stable security in the area to be evacuated by peacekeepers.

In recent interview with U.S. News and World Report magazine, Mr. Reagan said the MNF could be withdrawn in 1984, provided Syria would also pull its troops out of the country. "I don't say that the Multinational Force has to stay until all those foreign forces are out. I think that even if they gave an assurance that they're going to go and start the process, maybe we could then leave," he marked. Last week White House Deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes told reporters the Marines might be withdrawn if the talks between feuding Lebanese factions failed.

But American officials are dreaming if they think the Multinational Force can achieve a solution in a few short months, a question which has eluded the Lebanese after nearly a decade of battle. Following a meeting two weeks ago in London with British Prime Min-

ister Margaret Thatcher, Lebanese President Amin Gemayel noted that a "premature withdrawal" of the British, American, French and Italian forces, "through expediency or under the threat of international terrorism would have immense consequences throughout the Middle East." Yet last Friday, Italian President Sandro Pertini told reporters in Rome the Italian MNF contingent should be withdrawn, because it had "no clear significance" in Lebanon after the departure of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and his troops.

In America, two Democrats who staunchly supported the War Powers Resolution extending the mandate of U.S. troops in Lebanon wrote a letter to the president stressing that "getting the Marines out" of Lebanon was an option that "needs to be considered." U.S. Representatives Lee Hamilton of Indiana and Les Aspin of Wisconsin said the U.S. will "err" if it continues to act "as though hanging on is the only way to protect our interests."

They emphasised President Reagan had "overstated" the American stake in Lebanon by

attributing to the Soviet Union problems arising from disputes within Lebanon. (Last month Mr. Reagan said the USSR, in both Lebanon and Grenada, was acting through "a network of surrogates and terrorists.") The representatives also accused Mr. Reagan of not being forceful enough in pressuring Mr. Gemayel to accept the necessity of "painful compromise" with his political adversaries.

In Lebanon, the American shelling of Syrian positions is only making matters worse, escalating what is already in the most optimistic sense a very precarious situation by adding to the long list of American and foreign casualties and inviting endless comparisons to Vietnam, by an American public weary of fighting for other people's causes that they don't understand. Zhiqnia Brzezinski, the former national security adviser in President Jimmy Carter's administration, cautioned recently that the U.S. is in danger of switching from the role of mediator to protagonist in Lebanon. He said this will drive the Arabs toward the Syrians, thus increasing political clout in the

By Tara Bradford

regime for the Soviets. Mr. Reagan seems to have temporarily put aside his Middle East policy initiative efforts in favour of focusing on skirmishes in Lebanon and hopefully, not as a regime for Israel currently preoccupied with its struggles to bolster a faltering economy. The Reagan plan, first proposed on Sept. 1, 1982, call for negotiations involving Jordan and Israel and leading to establishment of a autonomous Palestinian entity in the West Bank in association with Jordan. Although the plan is far from perfect, it is a beginning. And, as witnessed by the tragic results of recent infighting among Palestinians, a beginning which is long past due.

As the 1984 elections draw near, Ronald Reagan cannot afford to shelve his Middle East peace initiative, or to risk his destiny to Lebanon. The ramifications are too far-reaching, not only for the United States, but for the world. Mr. Reagan persists on dividing into East and West.

...we have to remember that the West, the Middle East, and the East, are all part of the same world. When one wrongs from the ends of the Earth, Through they come from the ends of the Earth, ...

Continued Gulf war, Iran's hegemonistic trend threaten region's stability and world peace

Ayatollah Khomeini's holy war has never been directed solely against Iraq. In the wake of the terrorist bombings in Kuwait, Roger Matthews considers the designs of the Iranian mullahs.

Most days the Arabic service of Tehran radio beams messages of insurrection and rebellion across the waters of the Gulf. The target is the peoples of Arab oil-producing states, essentially Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain.

Western attention tends to be focused more on Iran's three-year military attempt to overthrow the government of Iraq but it should not be supposed that Ayatollah Khomeini has in any way forsaken his goal of spreading his Islamic revolution to other and possibly more vulnerable states.

Wealth and nationalism are both recent acquisitions in the Gulf region. Some members of ruling families can remember days of semi-poverty during World War II when their economies had been shattered by the Japanese discovery of cultivated pearls and political guidance came from the British Resident.

Today their numbers remain small — the populations of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates who form the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) are less than 20 million — but their combined financial resources may not be far short of \$275 billion. Despite the sharp cutback in oil output they are still providing close to 15 per cent of the industrial world's requirements.

The well-co-ordinated explosion of six terrorist bombs in Kuwait this month (December) seems to be a timely reminder of both their vulnerability and Iran's ambitions, for there can be little doubt that the Iranian regime was behind the attacks.

Kuwait, which is scarcely more than a city state of about 1.5 million people, is geographically and politically exposed to the conflicts of the Gulf. It is only about 100

miles from the scene of some of the bitterest fighting in the Gulf war and its population is far from homogeneous.

As a wealthy Arab state, with reserves of over \$65 billion, Kuwait has performed to support Iraq, its brother Arab state, in the war. It has contributed at least \$6 billion in cash to the Iraqi war effort and still acts as an important supply route.

Yet Kuwait and its ruling Al Sabah family have become increasingly uncomfortable in this role. Its own Shi'ite Muslim minority, co-religionists of Ayatollah Khomeini, tend to be rather ambivalent about the war. Pragmatically, they enjoy the stability, wealth and relative political freedom of Kuwait. Emotionally, they tend in private conversation to give away their eagerness for confirmation of Iranian successes on the battlefield.

The Emir of Kuwait would much prefer the war not to become a domestic issue. His government cannot have been happy at warnings from Iran during the past three months that it considered the degree of support being given to Iraq threatened to make Kuwait a co-belligerent. The Iranian threat to stop and search ships heading for Kuwait remains on the table.

During the first year of the Gulf war, Kuwait was bombed three times by Iranian aircraft. Although the targets were not very significant — two border posts and a gas-gathering station — and the Iranians claimed that the attacks had been carried out "in error," the message was clear enough. The Kuwaitis feared the message was becoming ever clearer during the increasingly bellicose exchange of threats this autumn which marked the delivery to Iraq of French Super-Etendard aircraft

equipped with Exocet missiles.

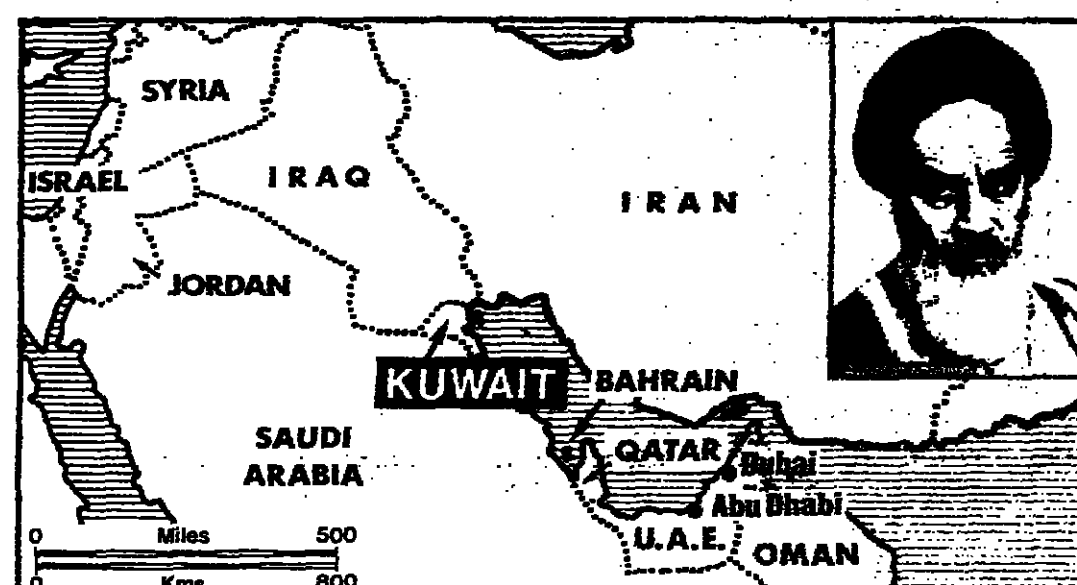
Although Kuwait's investment income would suffice to tide it over a closure of the Strait of Hormuz, the risk that the war with Iran may spill over into the rest of the Gulf preoccupied the summit meeting of the six-member Gulf Co-operation Council in Qatar last month (November).

Quite extraordinary security measures were taken to protect the heads of state from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman. This was partly because of the anxiety provoked in Qatar by the discovery of a cache of arms and explosives. But it is also reflected the fact that the GCC owes its existence largely to concern about external threats. The military weaker Gulf states wanted to free themselves at least partially from the influence of Iran and Iraq, and also to demonstrate to President Reagan that a U.S. military presence was not required on the ground to protect them from a Washington-perceived Soviet threat.

Kuwait prides itself that it is the most politically sophisticated of the GCC states and the most internationally oriented. Alone among them Kuwait holds elections to a National Assembly — admittedly with a very limited suffrage — and maintains relations with the Soviet Union.

To an extent this policy is dictated by the large Palestinian population in Kuwait, estimated at between 300,000 and 400,000. Kuwait is the only Arab Gulf state to have admitted Palestinians in such numbers.

While a proportion of those Palestinians have adopted Kuwait, even though they will probably never be allowed citizenship, there is almost certainly a radical fringe which would for example support the rebel faction attempting to unseat Mr. Yasser Arafat as chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.



Much of Iran's early propaganda after the overthrow of the Shah was designed to promote itself as the 'leading advocate of the Palestinian cause. And Ayatollah Khomeini has actively sought to invoke the power of Islam as a replacement for the fast-fading aspirations of Arab nationalism.

For their own reasons, Syria and Libya have both provided support for the Iranian mullahs. Syria has given military backing to Iran during the Gulf war and helped to weaken Iraq economically by shutting its oil export pipeline to the Mediterranean.

The effect of Syrian policies has been to weaken still further Arab co-ordination, which remains based on consensus rather than on the will of the moderate majority. The key to invoking that often silent majority is Saudi Arabia and its Gulf partners. However, they have hesitated to act, primarily it appears from fear of the sort of terrorism witnessed in Kuwait.

Yet in the smaller Gulf states, where nationals are a minority of the population as in Kuwait, sta-

bility rests more on political factors than on the efficiency of the security forces. The Al-Sabah family's power rests on its ability to provide continued prosperity and stability, not on its police force.

The collapse of the unofficial Souk Almanakh stock exchange earlier this year, with paper debts of \$90 billion still in the process of being unscrambled, caused deep financial unease within the country. The unease was exacerbated because senior officials admitted openly that they had allowed the speculative wave of share-buying to proceed to counteract public concern over the Gulf war.

The world decline in oil prices and the fall in Kuwait's own production levels is also imposing financial restraint on the government after a decade of non-stop growth. Kuwait still enjoys one of the highest per-capita incomes in the world, but must be anxious about the effect on its population if lower growth rates are combined with a growing sense of physical unease. For the very wealthy, security and survival abroad may become more attractive than on recently acquired nationalism.

The political conservatism and timidity of the rich is visible elsewhere in the Gulf, and Iran may be hoping that if it can undermine one regime the others will topple in succession. However there is no evidence yet that Saudi Arabia, the real prize for the radicals, is showing signs of political strain while Oman, under the pro-Western Sultan Qaboos, remains aggressively independent of Arab radicalism.

The United Arab Emirates — with seven member emirates — is holding together better than many people would have forecast 10 years ago, despite recent problems about the scale of budget cuts. Bahrain and Qatar also appear outwardly politically calm. There is no evidence of any groundswell of domestic discontent with their leaderships. But all these states fear that they cannot for ever be isolated from the ferment in the region. —Financial Times news feature

Bush war, Pretoria's agents make it insufferable for Namibians

By Neil Lewis
Reuter

MPUNGU VLEI, Namibia (South West Africa) — Villagers caught up in the 17-year bush war between South Africa and the South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) are living in fear of atrocities and torture, mainly by the security forces which are supposed to be protecting them.

The civilian population in Kavango province bordering Angola, one of the centres of war activity, told Reuters of beatings and brutal interrogations, often with electric shocks, at the hands of South African forces.

Many villagers have fled for protection to the towns, but bubonic plague has broken out among the squatters, with dozens of new cases each month in the overcrowded, rat-infested camps.

"The people are in the middle of a terrible situation," said a European missionary who asked not to be named.

Local people, who are mainly subsistence farmers, often said they feared both sides in the war for control of this mineral-rich territory administered by South Africa in defiance of the United Nations.

But most of those willing to talk were especially terrified of "Koevoet", a special counter-insurgency force under the joint command of the South African police and military.

Koevoet, which means crowbar in Afrikaans, is made up mostly of blacks under the command of white officers.

Because of South African restrictions on information about the war, little had been known about its operations until some of its tactics were disclosed in a series of court cases involving alleged atrocities.

In two cases, courts ruled that Koevoet members were responsible for the deaths of detainees but said they could not identify the individuals involved. In a

third case, two soldiers were given nominal fines for beating a man and forcing him to run until he collapsed and died.

But his month a Koevoet member, Jonas Paulus, was sentenced to death by a civil court in Windhoek for shooting an elderly man in his "kraal" or settlement in January.

Paulus said during the trial that villagers were beaten if they did not answer questions when Koevoet went in search of SWAPO members. "If they won't give us information, then one of our group assaults them ... beats them with a rifle butt."

Paulus said Koevoet members were paid 350 rand (\$300 a month), a relative fortune, and often received extra bounty or "head money" for any SWAPO members killed or AK-47 rifles recovered.

He also confirmed accusations that Koevoet sometimes dressed up in SWAPO uniform and trapped villagers into helping the

guerrillas.

Wilhelm Sirentu Mapasie, senior headman of the Kangwari tribe, spoke of his people being intimidated and harassed by Koevoet and the South African military as well as by SWAPO.

Mr. Mapasie, who believes he is nearly 100 years old, was interviewed in his kraal at Mpungu Vlei.

"We are getting beaten up all the time," he said through a translator. "The people are confused. If you are on the side of today's government, SWAPO will kill you. If you are not on their side, they (the government) will kill you."

Mr. Mapasie said three soldiers, two black and one white, came to his kraal earlier this year and accused him of "being SWAPO". He was roughed up and two rifles and an envelope containing 400 rand (\$350) were stolen, he said.

A week later, the soldiers returned and again demanded to know about SWAPO. Mr. Mapasie said they took one of his grandchildren off and fired a shot. He

was told the child was dead and that others would be shot if he did not talk.

He told them: "If you want to kill someone kill me, I am the chief, but leave my grandchildren."

After a time, the child was returned and he realised they had only tried to scare him.

Near Mr. Mapasie's kraal is the Mpungu Vlei clinic, where Ndara Kapitongo is recuperating from an alleged atrocity. Mr. Kapitongo, a frail man with bushmanlike features, said in an interview that two South African soldiers roasted him over a fire last June.

Speaking in Nyemba translated by a schoolteacher, Mr. Kapitongo said he was finishing dinner when two soldiers "came over to me and started beating me."

The soldiers then picked him up, one by his arms and the other by his legs, and held him over his own cooking fire before dropping him in the coals, he said.

He lost consciousness and woke up in a hospital, where his arm had

to be amputated because of the burns.

His wife later told him the men had spent the night in his hut raping her.

A spokesman for the Defence Force in Pretoria confirmed that the two soldiers were fined 50 rand (\$40) at a court martial.

The Kapitongo case, as well as dozens of other alleged atrocities, came to light mainly through the efforts of Hans Rohrer, a white who leads the Namibia Christian Democratic Party, which tries to offer a non-violent alternative to SWAPO.

Sean Cleary, director of the office of the South African administrator-general, told Reuters: "There is absolutely no case in which the government condones atrocities or brutal treatment of the civilian population. We wish to be emphatic about this."

Interviewed at the complex in Windhoek from which South Africa governs the territory, Cleary said a judicial commission would begin to examine the country's security laws in January.

طوارات الامم المتحدة

Holland moves to tighten check on tax evasion

AMSTERDAM (R) — Dutch tax dodgers are costing the Netherlands billions of dollars in lost revenue and the government is out to stop them by using, among other measures, random checks on bank accounts.

Its goal is to get back at least part of the enormous sums of "black money" — the amounts not declared to the tax man — circulating in the economy.

Some economists put the value of economic activity hidden from the government at 20 to 30 per cent of gross national product and say lost tax revenue runs into billions of dollars.

Showing traditional Dutch enthusiasm for individual enterprise, "black workers" range from pensioners doing jobs on the side to building companies fulfilling whole contracts without declaring them and savings dodges.

The problem in the Netherlands was dramatically highlighted this year by a banking scandal at Slavenburg's, a medium-sized Dutch bank now renamed Credit Lyonnais Nederland after the French bank which stepped in to rescue it in April.

Police raided the headquarters of the bank in February following allegations that clients were allowed to open accounts under false names, one way of hiding money from the tax office.

Most of the former board have now been charged with allowing bank employees to commit fraud and several senior bank officials face fraud charges.

The government, anxious to protect the good name of Dutch business as well as boost its revenues, has revealed a range of measures to deal with non-payment of tax. These include recruiting many more tax inspectors and tightening tax rules.

Increasing its inspection of companies' books in recent months, the government found it netted on average an extra \$131,000 in corporate tax for each extra visit its officers made to firms, though only part of this involved fraud.

The black economy exists in many countries, but economists say it appears particularly widespread in the Netherlands.

One reason, they say, are heavy taxes, with the average Dutch worker paying 35 per cent of his income to the state.

A further reason is the ease with which money deposited in banks could, until recently, be hidden from the tax office.

Until 1980, low to medium-income workers using a simplified tax form were asked only to declare their salary and interest income and not the extent of their bank holdings.

A favourite way of hiding money is to buy interest-bearing savings certificates redeemable simply by "the holder".

Last year the government told banks to register the names of people buying the certificates, but they do not have to show identification and there is little to stop use of false names.

Since then the finance ministry has announced a controversial plan to check the bank accounts of 3,000 randomly selected Dutchmen to compare their interest income and the amount they eventually declared.

The check is expected to show that half fiddled their tax, revenue specialists said.

The purpose is not to prosecute evaders but to help estimate the amount of black money in the economy and possibly indicate ways of fighting fraud.

Whatever the government does, however, it faces a hard battle against a practice so deeply rooted in the Dutch economy that the central bureau of statistics puts the size of the black economy at 5 to 10 per cent of national income.

But Professor Arnold Heertje of Amsterdam University told Reuters the 1983 gross national product of some \$122 billion under-estimated true activity by 20 to 30 per cent.

One finance ministry investigation of athletes with company sponsorships found that more than half had not declared the value of the goods they received.

Tax consultants said construction workers were probably the worst offenders, as in many other countries.

Dutch black money finds its way into all areas of the economy. "Fine arts are another traditional outlet for illegal earnings, they added.

Some of this money may be going abroad.

Earlier this year the chairman of the Algemene Bank Nederland, the country's largest bank, said there had been a sharp increase in the amount of large-denomination banknotes leaving the Netherlands.

The outflow seemed to be linked to the government's stepped-up tax recovery campaign, he added.

Andropov criticises industry

MOSCOW (R) — President Yuri Andropov has sharply criticised the performance of Soviet industry, saying the shortage of consumer goods is causing discontent among the population.

In a report to a plenum of the Communist Party central committee, the Kremlin chief said there had been improvements since he came into office 13 months ago but he was totally dissatisfied with the pace of change.

Mr. Andropov did not deliver his report in person to Monday's meeting. The text was published in the party daily Pravda Tuesday.

He admitted many problems stemmed from inherent weaknesses in the state planning system and also said that standards of environmental protection were poor.

The shortage of household goods and low quality of those available were intolerable and caused "discontent among the population," Mr. Andropov said.

Russians constantly complain of the lack of high quality electrical goods, clothing and furniture but it is unusual for Kremlin leaders to speak of popular discontent.

The Soviet leader said industry was still plagued by bottlenecks in supplies, low productivity, under-use of production capacity and slow acceptance of new technology.

Mr. Andropov blamed poor planning and weak management

ecological effects of joint industrial projects.

He called for the implementation of a single environmental protection policy and sharper controls to prevent pollution.

The Soviet press is seldom frank about pollution but occasional reports have referred to wholesale environmental disasters in some regions through the output of noxious gases and waste or the construction of dams and hydro-power plants.

Mr. Andropov's report mainly repeated themes which have become the hallmarks of his time in office, especially the demands for better productivity and labour discipline.

Diplomats said such comments indicated serious concern in the Kremlin about the negative mood among the public.

They said the report suggested that, with or without Mr. Andropov personally at the helm, the present leadership would keep up unrelenting pressure for an improvement in economic performance in the coming year.

Mr. Andropov's first year in office has already brought substantial changes. Industrial growth this year is expected to be about 4 per cent, double the 1982 figure.

The official Soviet news agency TASS said later the plenum had ended Tuesday after further discussion of the 1984 economic plan and state budget. It gave no details but said a resolution would be published later.

Western diplomats had expected a senior Kremlin official to make a statement outlining Soviet foreign policy goals following the break-off of talks with Washington on medium-range missiles.

TASS made clear no such report had been given and Mr. Andropov made no mention of foreign policy in Monday's report. In the past, normal practice at plenums has been for the party chief to assess both domestic policy and foreign policy priorities.

Andropov absence heightens speculation, page 8

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FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1983

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A wonderful day and evening for you to consider what you want to have as your rapport with other persons during the coming year. Let family and friends know you appreciate them.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Sitting down with associates and showing appreciation for their efforts brings you more cooperation now and in the future.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) By adding that neat touch and fine finish to your work, you can gain greater benefits. Find ways of improving your health.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Planning amusements for the near future is wise in the morning, so contact your special buddies. Include your mate in these plans.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Get busy and make those improvements at home that family has asked for. Then entertain proudly and with poise.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) By being more cooperative with regular allies, you get fine results. Make life easier for yourself. Visit close friends.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Study ways for having a greater income in the days ahead so that you can enjoy more of the good things of life.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You have many fine ideas for gaining whatever you desire and also have good judgment. Spend the evening with an interesting group.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You have been endeavoring to garner data you need, but now it comes to you quite easily. Make plans to realize your ambitions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) With the onset of the coming new year, this is a good day to decide how to make your future brighter.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Take your ambitious plans to those who can help you. Your career should be uppermost in your life right now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Study new interests that could prove very profitable in the future and plan how to add them to present activities.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Spending more time with the one you love can patch up any misunderstandings and you can reach fine rapport.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be so radiant and will gain favors from others without even asking for them. Reach early to be more independent and to learn to work since later on your progeny will have to rely on own efforts and ingenuity.

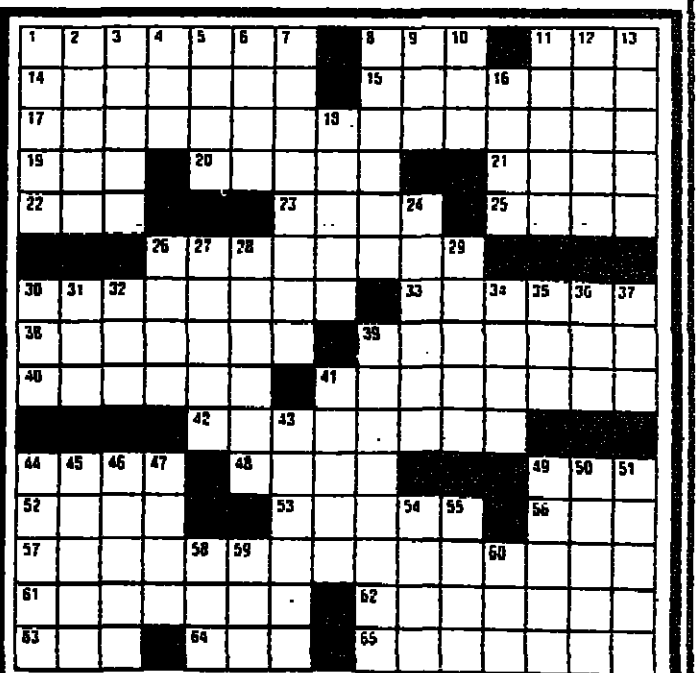
"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

THE Daily Crossword by Kathryn Righter

- | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| ACROSS | 33 Automaton | 62 Designate | 29 Gathering |
| 1 Corridor | 38 Expected | 63 Affirmative | of witches |
| 8 Goddess of | 39 Politely | 64 Liable | 30 Burnese |
| plenty | 40 Made taut | 65 Hat for a | spirit |
| 11 Betty | 41 Favorite of | Catherine | 31 Overwhelm |
| resident | of Russia | 42 Pasta stuff | 32 Tried for |
| 14 Fatty | 43 Starless | 44 Brad | 34 Kind of |
| 15 Naval | 45 Common | 46 Kazan the | 35 Wapiti |
| vessel | 47 Common | director | 36 1051 |
| 17 Pan | 48 Open space | 53 In a forest | 37 Thesaurus |
| 19 "...man — | 54 Arachnid | creation | word abbr. |
| mouse?" | 55 Pans | 61 Toronto's | 38 Compares |
| 20 Examines | 62 Toronto's | province | texts |
| by touch | 63 Toronto's | province | 41 French |
| 21 Shipshape | 64 Toronto's | province | soldier |
| 22 Colloid | 65 Toronto's | province | 43 Fly larva |
| 23 Very old | 66 Toronto's | province | 44 Type of |
| 25 Blunders | 67 Toronto's | province | lure |
| 26 Rapturous | 68 Toronto's | province | 45 Solo |
| 30 Not so wide | 69 Toronto's | province | 46 Civil dis- |
| | 70 Toronto's | province | turbances |

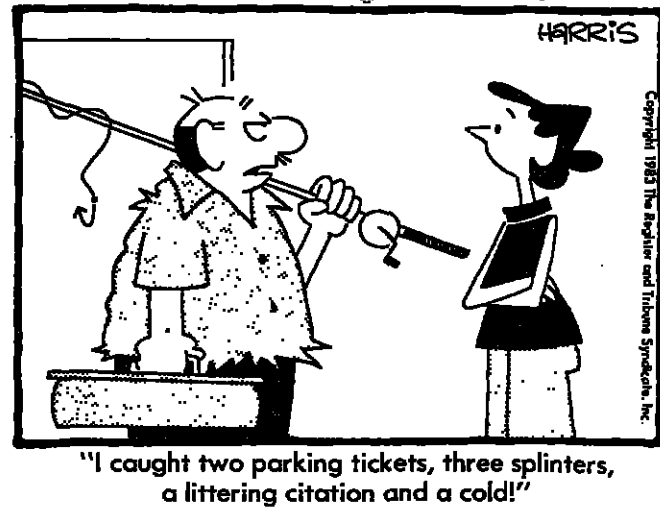
Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS: 1. Lower, 12. Rose extract, 13. Trials, 16. Heredity factor, 18. English composer, 24. Insect claw-bearing segments, 26. Goddess of discord, 27. Dove houses, 28. European kingdom, 33. Automaton, 38. Expected, 39. Politely, 40. Made taut, 41. Favorite of Catherine of Russia, 42. Pasta stuff, 43. Starless, 44. Brad, 45. Common article, 47. Common article, 53. In a forest, 54. Arachnid creation, 55. Pans, 61. Toronto's province, 62. Designate, 63. Affirmative, 64. Liable, 65. Hat for a cowboy, 29. Gathering of witches, 30. Burnese spirit, 31. Overwhelm, 32. Tried for office, 34. Kind of bean, 35. Wapiti, 36. 1051, 37. Thesaurus word abbr., 38. Compares texts, 41. French soldier, 43. Fly larva, 44. Type of lure, 45. Solo, 46. Civil disturbances, 47. New Zealand parrot, 49. Taunts, 50. Word of greeting, 51. Buddy the actor, 54. Fender mishap, 55. Grafted, in heraldry, 58. A Gershwin, 59. Tuck's partner, 60. Relax.



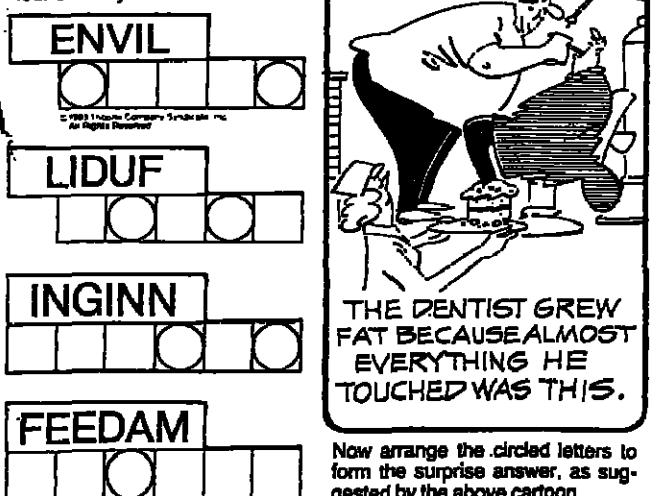
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THE BETTER HALF By Harris



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

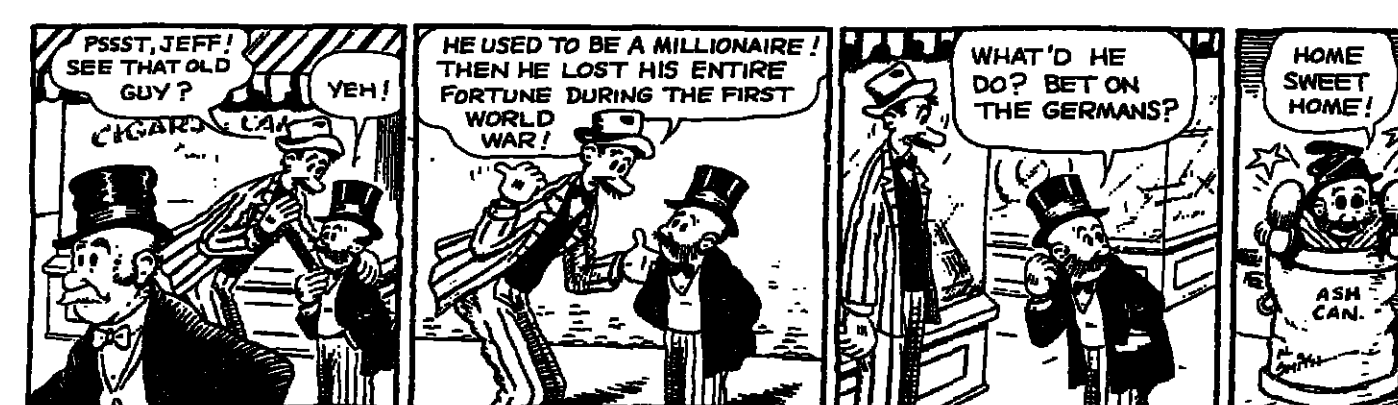
Print answer here: (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: KITTY LINEN CAMPER SALOON
Answer: What the ancient Romans could do easily that most moderns have difficulty doing—SPEAK LATIN

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



السلامة

Namibian rebels launch offensive, Pretoria says

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African troops trying to pre-empt a push into Namibia (South West Africa) by what Pretoria estimates are up to 1,000 guerrillas clashed Monday with about 200 guerrillas in southern Angola, South Africa's Defence Force chief said Monday night.

Gen. Constand Viljoen told reporters the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) guerrillas had fled when confronted by Pretoria's forces and sought the protection of Angolan troops.

Military analysts said the South African action, first disclosed last Friday, appeared to be the biggest operation against SWAPO since a full-scale invasion of southern Angola by South Africa in 1981 when Pretoria said 1,000 SWAPO and Angolan soldiers were killed. SWAPO has conducted a 17-year sporadic bush war against South African control of Namibia, a vast mineral-rich territory which

Pretoria rules in defiance of the United Nations.

Gen. Viljoen said seven companies of from 120 to 140 SWAPO members each were heading south toward the Angolan border with Namibia and that South Africa would continue its Angolan operation until the SWAPO offensive was foiled.

Angola said Monday South African forces had occupied the town of Cassinga more than 200 kilometres north of the border and that Pretoria had deployed three motorised brigades, four artillery groups and 100 aircraft.

"We are deploying the necessary troops because we intend to

meet SWAPO as far north as possible so that we can prevent, if possible, their operation into Owambo (in northern Namibia) and further south," Gen. Viljoen said.

He denied Angolan reports that South African warplanes had been shot down in the action, but said they had been fired at by Soviet-made SAM-8 missiles.

SWAPO was benefitting from sophisticated weapons supplied to Angola by the Soviet Union, he added.

SWAPO guerrillas traditionally launch an offensive from bases in Angola against South African forces in Namibia about this time of year when rains and sprouting vegetation provide good bush cover.

South Africa normally has about 12,000 combat troops in the border area between Namibia and Angola while the South West Africa territory force, an integrated command, has about 14,000 men of Namibian origin under arms.



HOPE AGAINST HOPE: Comedian Bob Hope dons an Arab headdress as he wishes Marines at Beirut International Airport a merry Christmas.

Hope made a surprise visit to the Marine headquarters after giving several performances offshore (A.P. wirephoto)

'Andropov may be very sick'

MOSCOW (R) — Yuri Andropov's failure to turn up for a major meeting of the Soviet leadership has raised fresh doubts about his ability to continue long in the Kremlin's top job, according to Western diplomats here.

Mr. Andropov, 64, did not attend Monday's opening of a two-day meeting of the Communist Party central committee. Instead, a long report by him was read out by a proxy.

It was the second time that Mr. Andropov's health forced him to break with precedent for a Soviet leader and stay away from an important event. Belief that his condition was serious grew after he failed to attend the Nov. 7 Red Square Parade.

Few analysts in the Soviet capital now expect Mr. Andropov to be well enough to make even a token appearance at Wednesday's session of the Supreme Soviet, the national parliament, of which he is president.

"Although this cannot be completely ruled out, it looks very unlikely, I think we have to assume that he is a very sick man," one

senior North American diplomat said.

Some Western diplomats said they thought there could be increased pressure within the party for Mr. Andropov to step down.

The central committee plenum was expected to end Tuesday, having accomplished most of its formal duties Monday with the hearing of Mr. Andropov's report and the approval of several changes in the ruling politburo.

These included the promotion of two candidate members of the "inner cabinet": Vitaly Voronnikov and Mikhail Solomentsev, to full membership. Both are considered supporters of Mr. Andropov's policies.

Viktor Chebrikov, a former deputy of Andropov's in the KGB Security police and now head of that organisation, was elevated to the ranks of the politburo's candidate members.

Diplomats said Mr. Andropov's position still seemed secure enough for him to have pushed through these promotions for his own supporters.

Mr. Voronnikov, who already

holds the important position of prime minister of the Russian Federation, largest of the 15 Soviet constituent republics, has been particularly tipped as a man to watch.

His speedy rise under Mr. Andropov has led some diplomats and Kremlin observers to believe that he could be the party leader's personal preference as successor.

Another man thought to be a proponent of Mr. Andropov's disciplinary brand of communist ideology, Yegor Ligachov, a senior official who has risen fast, was promoted to the influential position of a central committee secretary.

But there is no precedent for a Soviet leader retiring gracefully and some Western observers said the tone of Mr. Andropov's report, which dwelt exclusively on the economy, was not that of a man about to fade into the wings.

"He appears still keen to get the economy moving whether by his own impetus or by promoting into power the men he thinks can do it," one diplomat said.

India's ruling party gets ready for next election

NEW DELHI (R) — About 10,000 delegates from Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Congress (I) Party were gathering in Calcutta Tuesday for a national convention that is likely to shape the party's platform for the next general elections.

The plenary session, the first in seven years, is being held in a giant indoor stadium in India's most populous city and will be attended by party representatives from across the country.

Congress (I) sources say the session will be crucial in refurbishing the party's image, dented by electoral setbacks and internal dissent.

The 66-year-old prime minister does not have to call elections until her current term expires in January 1985, but opposition groups and political commentators expect her to take advantage of

the country's fragmented opposition to hold polls earlier.

Analysts expect resolutions passed at the convention to form vital planks of the party's election manifesto.

Mrs. Gandhi is considering an invitation to meet President Reagan and Soviet leader Yuri Andropov to discuss disarmament, officials in New Delhi said Tuesday.

They said she had received the invitation Monday from United Nations General Assembly President Jorge Illueca. It asked Mrs. Gandhi, as head of the Non-Aligned Movement, to join talks with the U.S. and Soviet leaders aimed at reviving detente and halting the arms race.

An attempt by Mrs. Gandhi earlier this year to launch a similar initiative produced a lukewarm response.

London police warn shoppers

LONDON (R) — Police have told shoppers in London for traditional post Christmas sales Tuesday to be on their guard against possible bomb attack by Irish guerrillas.

The warning follows a Christmas day bomb which exploded in a litter bin near a main central London shopping street slightly injuring two passers-by.

Police said the bomb was probably planted by guerrillas fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

Thousands of bargain-hunters usually flock to London's major department stores for the price-cutting winter sales, which start Tuesday and continue into the New Year.

The head of the anti-terrorist police, Commander Bill Huckleby, said the Christmas Day bomb appeared to be the latest in a series of bombings by Irish guerrillas.

5 expelled Soviets leave Bangladesh

DHAKA (R) — Five of 12 Soviet diplomats expelled by Bangladesh's military government left the country Monday, official sources said Tuesday.

The other seven will depart shortly, the sources said.

The government did not spell out the reason for the expulsions. But the order was given on Nov. 30, two days after anti-government violence flared in Dhaka.

Sources said the Soviet officials had been involved in non-diplomatic activity.

Although the government originally gave a verbal expulsion order, the Soviet embassy asked for a written demand and that delayed the departure.

Bangladesh kicked out three Soviet diplomats in 1981 after they were allegedly caught taking photographs of key installations outside of this capital.

Sources said one of those who left Monday was Grouzetui Guerouqui, consul general at the Soviet consulate in the port city of Chittagong. The other four were based in Dhaka and were identified embassy First Secretary Edward Mikhailovich Schukin, cultural official V.I. Romashkin, assistant attaché Alexei Dedov and counsellor I.A. Krivogouz.

The sources said at least four of the dozen Soviet diplomats had been expelled by countries where they were earlier assigned on charges of spying.

The Soviet embassy, with more than 100 employees, including 36 diplomats, is the biggest foreign mission in Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh government also ordered the Soviet Cultural Centre here closed, but embassy officials said the centre was shut for renovation work.

Following the 1981 expulsions, airport security officials here said they seized several crates of electronic spy equipment being unloaded from a Soviet airliner.

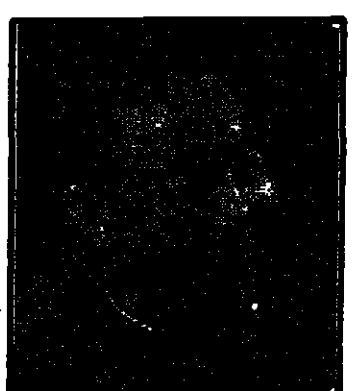
Rural elections start

Meanwhile, voting began Tuesday morning to elect 4,400 rural council members in Bangladesh, the first such local elections in seven years.

Military ruler Hossain Mohammad Ershad said the union council elections, the lowest tier of government administration, would lay the foundations for returning Bangladesh to democracy.

Voting will continue until Jan. 10 when more than 47 million voters are expected to have cast their ballots.

This will be followed by municipal elections in urban areas on Feb. 11 and sub-district council elections on March 24.



Hua Guofeng appears with Mao's daughter

PEKING (R) — Mao Tsetung's disgraced successor as communist party leader, Hua Guofeng, made a rare public appearance together with Mao's daughter by his jailed wife, Jiang Qing, the People's Daily reported Tuesday.

The official Chinese Communist Party newspaper said the two paid their respects to Mao's remains in the central Peking mausoleum as part of ceremonies marking the 90th anniversary of the late chairman's birth.

According to the Hong Kong Magazine Zhengming, Hua recently attempted to commit suicide.

The usually well-informed publication said the suicide attempt was possibly a political gesture of anger with those, including paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, who wish to expel him from the party.

Hua was forced to resign in June 1981 after his policies were attacked as too leftist. He was succeeded by Hu Yaobang whose views are much more in line with those of Deng, a sworn enemy of Maoist dogmatism.

Hua and his associates have stripped Hua of most of his power, but he remains a member of the 210-member party central committee.

The People's Daily named Mao's daughter Li Na as being among family members who paid homage to his remains in their crystal sarcophagus.

It did not mention she is the only child of Jiang Qing who was given a suspended death sentence in 1981 for conspiring to usurp state power as leader of the extreme left "gang of four."

Li Na, aged about 40, wielded enormous power at the height of the cultural revolution in 1967,

200 die in U.S. during century's worst freeze

NEW YORK (R) — The worst Arctic storm of the century eased its killer grip on the United States Tuesday but forecasters said temperatures would plunge again in a few days.

The nine-day cold spell set record low temperatures in dozens of American cities over Christmas, killed some 200 people, mostly in traffic accidents, and caused havoc in normally-mild fruit growing areas of the deep South.

In many parts of the country, numbing cold gave way to freezing rain and hazardous icing conditions.

Despite some relief from cold which sent thermometers tumbling to as low as 27 degrees below zero Fahrenheit (minus 33 C) in Havre, Montana, Monday, temperatures were still below freezing in many areas.

And more record cold and bad weather was forecast for the Southeast, the Midwest and parts of the north before the New Year.

Seven hundred people were stranded at a high school in northern New York State when the storm forced authorities to close a highway for two days.

"Mostly, it's a big inconvenience," said one Buffalo resident. "The shopping centres stayed open."

The National Weather Service said the cold spell set 80 low-temperature records Monday.

Temperatures fell well below freezing in citrus fruit areas. Ray Prewitt, spokesman for citrus growers in Texas' Rio Grande valley, said all oranges and grapefruit in the area were frozen and suitable only for pulping into juice.

Birth control practised on lionesses to counter African baby lion boom

By Neil Lewis
Reuter

ETOSHA PAN, Namibia (South West Africa) — Scientists at the Etosha national park, a southern African game reserve, have been giving contraceptives to lionesses in an experiment to correct an imbalance in the wildlife population.

Hu Berry, chief biologist at the park, said he noticed the Etosha lions were multiplying in excessive numbers.

But there was a sharp drop in the numbers of wildebeest, a member of the antelope family which used to roam the area. The scientists found a variety of factors which were giving the park's predators an advantage in the struggle for survival.

Mr. Berry tried to correct the problem by putting lionesses of cub-bearing age on contraceptives.

He implanted five-centimetre rubber capsules in their neck muscles to release a constant flow of birth control hormones into their system.

The decision to experiment with contraceptives followed a detailed study to find out what was causing the unusual situation at Etosha.

The Etosha game park, one of the largest game reserves in the world, is about the same size as Massachusetts or Wales. At its centre is the Etosha salt pan, the vestige of a prehistoric salt lake,

which dried out centuries ago. The pan, 129 kilometres across at its widest point, is a completely flat expanse of whitish, salty clay which becomes wet during the rainy season at the beginning of the year.

Mr. Berry said there were too many lions at Etosha because the delicate predator-prey balance had been significantly upset by man's intervention.

His team of scientists identified three main causes. Etosha is totally fenced, which precludes the age-old seasonal migrations of the hoofed animals for water. Secondly, numerous boreholes have been drilled to provide a permanent source of water for the animals which cannot follow the rains.

In addition, a tourist road has been built through the reserve and in this case Mr. Berry said, the backlash of disturbed nature took a subtle and unexpected but deadly form.

The numerous gravel pits used to build the road have proved an ideal alkaline breeding area for anthrax, a disease which can decimate hoofed stock but to which the lion is immune.

Before fencing, the lion prides had to join the annual migrations of the wildebeest and many of the cubs died in the long, arduous treks. Nowadays, they have only to stake out the man-made waterholes to feed.

4 servicemen to sue Aquino witness

MANILA (R) — Four servicemen who escorted opposition leader Benigno Aquino from the aircraft that brought him back to Manila in August said they planned to sue a man who claimed one of them might have shot the former senator.

Speaking through their lawyers Monday, they said allegations made by Ruben Regalado in a U.S. television interview at the weekend were "malicious, false, defamatory, a bare-faced lie and a total fabrication."

They did not say how much they would seek but said it was a "multi-million peso suit" and they would also press criminal charges.

Regalado, a ground technician at Manila airport, said in an interview with NBC television news at the saw someone holding the wrist of the alleged killer Rolando Galman at the time of the shooting.

The military claims Galman, whom they identify as a hired gunman and communist guerrilla, fired the shot that killed Aquino and was then gunned down by airport guards.

The ABC broadcast said Regalado was in hiding outside the Philippines.

"The military told the false story and I am telling the somewhat true story," Regalado said, according to accounts of the interview published in Manila newspapers. "They could probably go after me so I think it is right for safe for me to hide for a while."

He said: "Someone inside a police van parked nearby was reaching out and holding onto Rolando Galman, so it was impossible that Galman shot Aquino."

"He was just there standing, not even struggling. He was standing there and somebody was holding his wrist."

Regalado said he knew others at the airport saw more than he did but had told investigators they saw nothing out of fear for their safety.

Meanwhile, the paramilitary constabulary have seized truckloads of firecrackers in the past three days in a renewed drive against banned explosives.

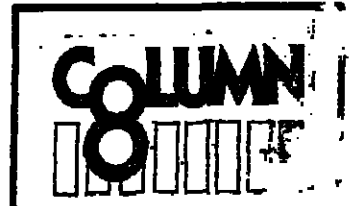
A spokesman said at least seven people were arrested and truckloads of firecrackers worth more than one million pesos (\$70,000) were seized in raids in three towns in Bulacan province near Manila.

The government banned firecrackers, which police sources say are made with gunpowder obtained from the armed forces, during the Christmas holidays but many people still add a bang to their celebrations.

Constabulary chief Lt. Gen. Fidel Ramos said that since September explosions and fires in illegal fireworks factories had killed 14 people, injured 31 and caused property damage estimated at about 26 million pesos (almost \$2 million).

President Marcos pardoned or commuted the sentences of 280 prisoners, including two foreigners jailed for drug offences, Tuesday in a Christmas clemency order, the presidential palace said.

A spokesman said the 280 did not include prisoners held for subversion or other politically-related charges.



UAE plans to stop fleeing businessmen

DUBAI (R) — Tougher laws stop expatriate businessmen fleeing the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have been recommended by the country's municipalities and chambers of commerce. A spokesman for the general secretariat of UAE municipalities said it agreed with the federal UAE chambers of commerce that new legislation was needed because an increasing number of businessmen were fleeing the country to escape debts and other responsibilities.

British actress dies at 85

BLACKPOOL, England (R) — Actress Violet Carson, who played Ena Sharples in the long-running British television soap opera Coronation Street, died, a spokesman for the programme said. She was 85. Carson, who died at home, in Blackpool, northwest England, played Ena Sharples, a sharp-tongued old lady in a hair-net, from 1960 when the show began until February 1982. She was never formally written out of the series, which portended life among the northern English working class.

Indonesia plans transvestite centre

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesian officials say they will establish a centre for this city's estimated 4,500 transvestite prostitutes aimed at getting them off the streets and teaching them new job skills. The move is not meant to encourage "baunhees", as the transvestites are known here, but to help train them for more acceptable work such as beautician: the officials said. "I just can stand the sight of baunhees along the roadsides," Achmad Toha, head of the Jakarta social affairs board, was quoted as saying by the Jakarta Post daily newspaper.

Java circumcision ceremony bungled

JAKARTA (R) — A Javanese dukun or medicine man slipped up at a lavish circumcision ceremony and sliced off his six-year-old patient's penis by mistake, the Jakarta Post newspaper reported. The boy's father fainted, the terrified dukun fled to give himself up to police while the boy was rushed to hospital along with his severed organ. But doctors said they were unable to carry out a grafting operation.

Pakistan cracks down on drugs

ISLAMABAD (R) — Drug pushers in Pakistan face life imprisonment and up to 30 lashes under tougher Islamic laws reduced to fight the country's growing drug problem. Military ruler President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq increased the penalties in a martial law order boosting the minimum jail sentence for making, selling or transporting opium, cocaine or heroin from one year to two, and the maximum from five years to life.

Explosion wrecks Paris building

PARIS (R) — At least one person was killed and two more injured when a gas explosion wrecked a four-storey building early Tuesday, police said. Rescue workers were using tracker dogs to find other people believed to be still trapped under the rubble.

Czechoslovakia attacks U.S. over UNESCO

VIENNA (R) — Czechoslovakia charged Tuesday that by threatening to leave UNESCO, the Reagan administration was pitting either to break the educational, scientific and cultural organisation of the U.N., or to gain decisive influence over its affairs. "The destructive U.S. policy does not end with the announced withdrawal from UNESCO," the Czechoslovak communist party daily Rude Pravo said. "This is an attempt to break this international organisation or to gain a decisive influence in it."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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BREAK THOSE COMMUNICATIONS

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ Q J 3
♦ J 6 2
♦ A Q 6 5
♦ Q 6 3

WEST EAST
♦ K 8 5 2 ♦ 7 4
♦ K 9 5 4 3 ♦ A 8 7
♦ 10 4 ♦ J 9 8
♦ J 8 ♦ 10 9 7 5

SOUTH
♦ A 10 9 6
♦ Q 10
♦ K 3 2
♦ A K 4 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass
Opening lead: Four of ♠.

A little knowledge can be dangerous. West ducked a trick to maintain communications, only to find that he was communicating with declarer!

The auction was a matter of simple arithmetic, and the contract was normal. West led his fourth-best heart. East won the ace and returned the eight. To "maintain communications," West

allowed declarer to win the trick.

Declarer cashed three rounds of clubs to see if that suit would break, then tried three rounds of diamonds, ending in dummy. When the ninth trick failed to materialize in either minor suit, declarer could have tried the spade finesse. Instead, however, he opted for a sure line — he exited with a heart, giving West his tricks in the suit.

After taking his three heart tricks, West was down to nothing but spades. His forced return in the suit gave declarer his game-going trick.

In many circumstances, West's play to the second trick would have been technically correct. This was not one of them. East could not possibly have another high-card entry.

West could have avoided the end play by winning the second heart and clearing the suit. Now declarer would have had no way of getting his ninth trick without resorting to the spade finesse, and he would have gone down one in peace and quiet.

Guinea quake toll could be over 300

ABIDJAN (R) — The death toll in last week's earthquake in Guinea, which has already reached at least 300, could rise even higher after fresh tremors over the weekend.

Provisional figures released on Saturday spoke of at least 300 dead, 200 missing and 150 seriously injured in last Wednesday night's major quake and the series of secondary tremors which shook the country intermittently up to Saturday.

The official Conakry Radio, monitored in Abidjan, reported that dozens more died when two more powerful tremors virtually flattened the small town of Koumbia, just west of Gaoual, on Saturday. Only five houses were left standing.

The radio said all but two of the country's 35 administrative areas were hit by the tremors and 16 villages were destroyed.

The Gaoual area, 300 kilometres north of the capital Conakry, took the full force of the major quake which measured 6.3 on the Richter scale.

It said a major international relief operation was under way with help arriving from West Europe and neighbouring African countries.

Two teams of French rescue workers, whose albatross dogs and sonar listening devices have saved dozens of trapped earthquake victims in many parts of the world, were due in Conakry Tuesday.